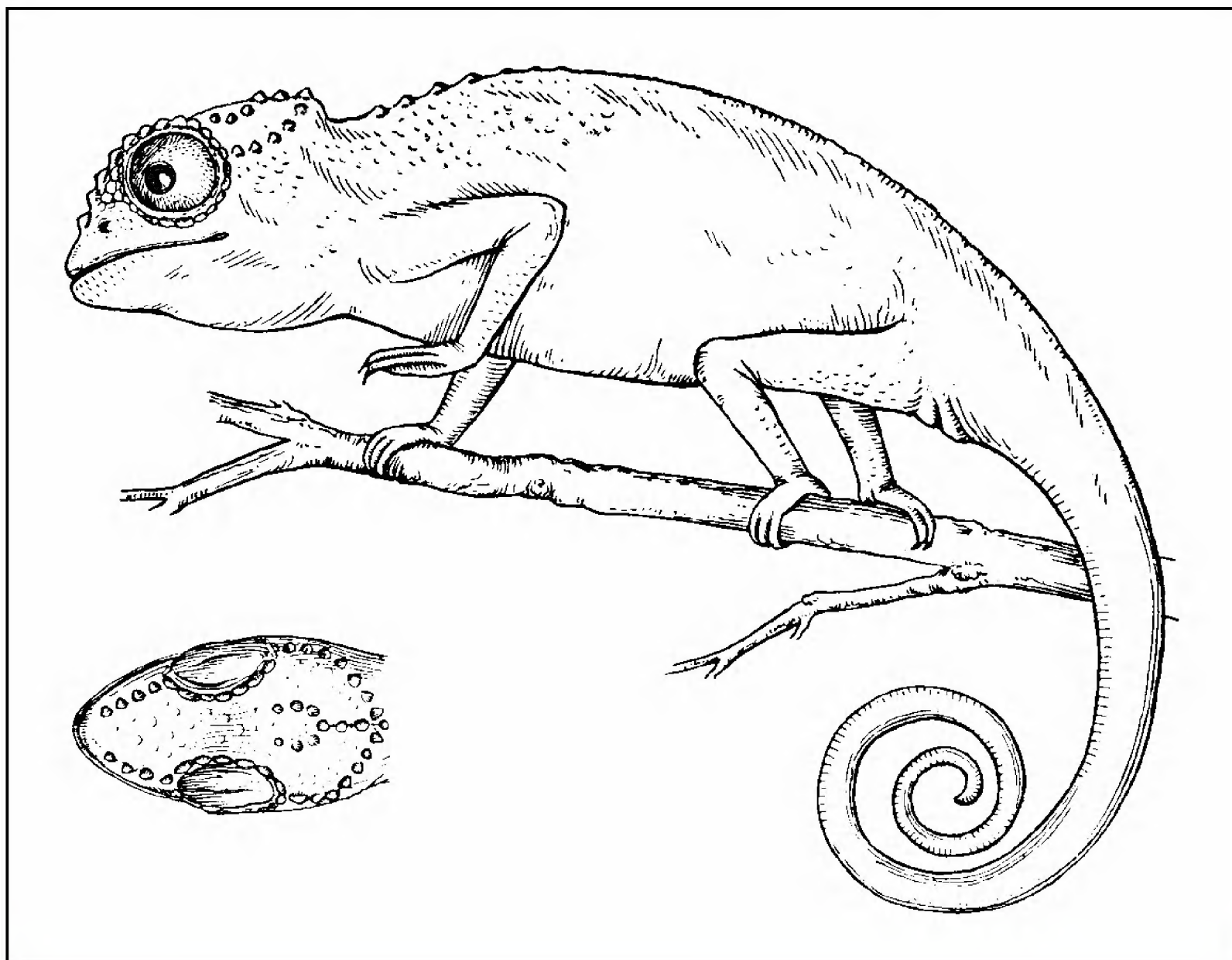

BULLETIN

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BULLETIN OF THE CHICAGO HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Comments on the Herpetological Publications of Romeo J. Mansueti, with Special Reference to Baltimore, Maryland. Part 2: Reptiles

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This concludes my review of Mansueti (1941d) and related publications. Introductory material, systematic resources and acknowledgments are contained in Miller (2015).

Cheloniidae

“*Caretta caretta*.” Cooper (1947c) provides the only definite record for a sea turtle from Baltimore, a specimen from “the intersection of Jones Falls and the Patapsco [Patapsco] River [= Northwest Harbor] near Light Street, Baltimore City,” collected by F. R. Atwell and J. D. Hardy, Jr. Although Atwell, Cooper and Hardy are in agreement that this specimen is an introduction (Cooper, 1947c), the following is worth noting. Cooper does not provide a date of collection, although both the catalogue and file card data record that the specimen, since discarded, was taken on 17 June 1947 and that it is catalogued as NHSM 981. However, R. J. Mansueti, in the catalogue, lists the specimen as being from the Chesapeake Bay, near Cove Point, Calvert County. But on the card file he records it as: “Maryland, Chesapeake Bay, brought up to Baltimore Harbor by fishermen.” Hardy (1962) at first states that he has reidentified the specimen as *Lepidochelys olivacea kempii* (now *L. kempii*), but moments later calls it an “assumption.” He also does not provide a date of collection nor make any mention of his involvement with the specimen. Further, Hardy states that the specimen from Baltimore is uncatalogued, but it was catalogued long before his paper was published. Given the near certainty that NHSM 981 does not represent a valid locality, one has to wonder why it is plotted (as *L. kempii*) by Harris (1969, 1975, with a caveat) and Committee . . . (1973, with no caveat).

Another individual reported by Cooper as *C. caretta* is based on a personal communication from J. D. Hardy, Jr., to Cooper of a dead turtle he found at YMCA Camp Boy Haven, Calvert County, “in the early summer of 1946.” As related to Cooper, the turtle had a carapace length of 30 inches and Hardy retained “the mandibles” as documentation. Once again, in Hardy (1962), we find a different account. Hardy states that the specimen, which he has reidentified as *Lepidochelys kempii*, is represented by only a beak and is an uncatalogued specimen at the NHSM. There is no indication that this specimen fragment was ever deposited at the NHSM. He also does not give a date of collection, fails to mention that he is the collector, and leaves the reader with the impression that Cooper is responsible for estimating the turtle’s length, which Hardy now states “was considerably smaller.” More significant, Hardy and Mansueti (1962) state that the only known specimen of *L. kempii* from Calvert County was found at the confluence of Parker’s Creek and the Chesapeake Bay, 26 July 1944. Oddly, they make no mention of the record from Camp Boy Haven. The Parker Creek specimen they are referring to is USNM 119007, but for some reason they do not say so, just as they provide no documentation

for the new localities they report for other species.

Cooper (1947c) reports two other “*Caretta caretta*” from Maryland. Given the absence of a specimen and its small size (carapace length of ca. 23 inches), no reliance can be placed on the identification of the turtle he mentions from ca. 0.5 mile N YMCA Camp Conoy, Calvert County, -- June 1946. Cooper implies that the specimen was collected and deposited in the NHSM, but there is no indication of this. Another report, from “about five miles above Ocean City in Worcester County, in August of this year [1947],” may be accurate given the estimated weight of 300 pounds—certainly too heavy for *L. kempii*, but not for *Chelonia mydas*, which, however, is quite rare in Maryland (see below). Cooper indicates that documentation was accomplished by photography, but neglects to mention that this specimen was collected (NHSM 1020—discarded). Somewhat different locality data are recorded in the NHSM card file: ca. 4.0 miles N Ocean City, along with a different date of collection, 12 July 1947. Evans et al. (1997), although citing both Cooper (1947c) and Hardy (1962), somehow overlook the conflicts between these two articles. They also state that between McCauley (1945) and Cooper (1947c) six individuals are reported, when in fact seven are mentioned. Norden et al. (1998) cite only four references, yet two of them, Cooper (1947c) and Hardy (1962), do not appear in the text. Both Evans et al. (1997) and Norden et al. (1998) were published in a journal under the control of A. W. Norden and received either no peer review (Evans et al.) or inadequate review (Norden et al.). Had both these articles undergone competent review or, better, not been published in a journal controlled by one of its authors, such basic errors would have been easily caught.

Mansueti (1940b) reports this species from off Chincoteague Island (Accomack County), Virginia, “very near to the Maryland-Virginia line,” for a specimen (NHSM 60, 10 August 1939—discarded) stated to be “17 or 18 inches long . . .” In light of the foregoing confusion concerning *Caretta caretta* and *Lepidochelys kempii*, this record should be disregarded.

Chelonia mydas. The first specific report for this very rare species in Maryland is provided by Robertson (1947), who notes an individual from Cove Point, Calvert County, 30 July 1934. He does not provide any documentation, including who identified the turtle, whether it was living or dead, or what became of it. Robertson prefaces his note with a three-sentence paragraph, the last two of which are: “During the months of June and July this marine species enters the Chesapeake Bay and straggles considerable distances into our waters. Specimens are sometimes found along the shores of the Bay, presumably killed by ships that ply in the channel.” This is pure hearsay and despite the title of his article the content is overwhelmingly a collection of generalities, none referenced, that have nothing to do with Maryland. More important, as I note elsewhere herein and has

been noted by others (e.g., Hardy and Mansueti, 1962), due to his involvement in Kelly et al. (1936), Robertson is not necessarily a reliable source of information. It is therefore surprising to see Hardy and Mansueti (1962), among others, citing Robertson (1947), but then Hardy and Mansueti themselves make the unsupported statement: “several records exist for specimens cast up on the beach or captured in pound nets set near Cove Point [Calvert County].” I have emailed Hardy several times whether he ever saw any of these turtles, but no response was forthcoming. Similarly, no response was received when I inquired about a locality plotted in the Chesapeake Bay in extreme east-central Calvert County by Harris (1975). It would appear that the only unimpeachable record for *C. mydas* in Maryland is provided by Schwartz (1960), who reports an individual from White Rock, Chincoteague Bay, Worcester County. Oddly, he does not cite this reference in Schwartz (1961, 1967). It may be significant that Evans et al. (1997) and Norden et al. (1998) had no records for this species.

Chelydridae

Chelydra serpentina. McCauley (1940) lists and plots and later (1945) plots but does not list only one record for the vicinity of Baltimore City (a personal communication for Woodstock, Baltimore County), and Mansueti (1941d) declines to mention any localities due to the species’ abundance. Although a number of specimens from sites within a 20-mile radius of Baltimore are present in the TSU collection today, I restrict my comments to Baltimore City. The only documented localities are or were: South Hanover Street (NHSM 647, 2 August 1946—discarded) and Lochearn (NHSM 1207-1208, 3 August 1946; 1208 has been discarded). A discarded specimen (NHSM 1061, 7 June 1947) stated to be from Baltimore and with locality data based on a long defunct streetcar route is apparently from Baltimore County (M. A. Hurley, personal communication, 2014). Literature reports are provided by J. Norman (1939) who records it from “the stream” (Western Run), Western Run Parkway, and Buxbaum (1942), referring to the Gwynn’s Falls generally, states: “These turtles are found in nearly every locality, being very common.” The older of the two catalogues of L. R. Franz’s private collection records a specimen (LRF 24—discarded) from Frankford Avenue, 1.0 mile “E” (SE) Belair Road (US Route 1), -- June 1960. Harris (1969, 1975) overlooks all of these records, but plots one site on the Baltimore City-Baltimore County boundary that has no basis in the public domain.

Dermochelyidae

Dermochelys coriacea. This species, an occasional transient in Maryland, is reported from two localities in Calvert County by Hardy and Mansueti (1962): one from Little Cove Point, 14 September 1939 and the other from Dares Beach, 29 June 1947. As is typical of their article, they provide no details concerning these turtles beyond noting that “two specimens have washed ashore dead.” The former locality predates Hardy’s possible involvement with it, and Mansueti (1942b) makes no reference to it. The authors do not state that they were involved with the latter locality, so what is their documentation? Hardy (1969) states that Hardy and Mansueti (1962) “comment” on these “specimens,” but, as noted, they do not. Further confusing the

situation, Hardy (1969) gives the dates of 14 September 1934 for the Little Cove Point occurrence and 24 June 1947 for Dares Beach.

Emydidae

Chrysemys picta. Mansueti (1941d) lists a record 24 localities where this species “has been taken and observed,” but only one of these sites was documented at the time: Glenartney, Baltimore County (NHSM 73, 15 July 1939). This specimen has been discarded. One locality listed by Mansueti for Baltimore City, Herring Run Park, would be documented later (NHSM 1043, 13 June 1947). Of the remaining 22 sites only Cherry Hill, Baltimore City (Groves, 1940) is supported. A second literature record for Baltimore is provided by Buxbaum (1942), who reports it from “a large body of water above Dickeyville.” This is apparently the extant millpond that has its head at Forest Park Avenue. Mansueti (1941d) lists the species from Western Run Parkway, but J. Norman (1939) does not; however, Norman does note its occurrence at Bonnie View Golf Club and Curtiss-Wright Airport, which Mansueti overlooks. Mansueti also overlooks W. Norman’s (1939) report from the McMahon Quarry area, Baltimore County. An overlooked specimen by Mansueti (1941d) is “mud flats under Hanover Street [MD Route 2] bridge, Patapsco River,” Baltimore (NHSM 218, -- June 1940). Another locality for Baltimore is Hanover Street Bird Sanctuary (now Reed Bird Island Sanctuary) (NHSM 684, 5 September 1946—discarded); this site is either the same as the preceding or adjacent to it. Reed (1956b) lists a specimen (discarded) from Brooklyn, Baltimore, 15 May 1953. Harris (1969, 1975) merely copies McCauley’s (1945) records for Maryland, none of which are formally listed.

Clemmys guttata. Of the 22 localities that Mansueti (1941d) lists only one was ever documented: near Randallstown, Baltimore County (NHSM 158, 16 May or 16 June 1940). But this specimen has been discarded. Mansueti lists the species from five sites in Baltimore City: Druid Hill Park, Gwynn’s Falls Park, Herring Run Park, Hillsdale and Western Run Parkway. It strains credulity to believe that spotted turtles occurred commonly in the public parks of Baltimore even 75 years ago. Similarly, those familiar with localities such as “Gunpowder Falls area” and Oella, both located along streams in rugged areas of state parks, will wonder where suitable habitat for this species could possibly have existed. J. Norman (1939) does not record *C. guttata* from Western Run Parkway, nor does Buxbaum (1942) report the species from the Gwynn’s Falls area. However, five peripheral sites for the city exist; four are or were vouchered and there is one unsupported literature report. J. Norman (1939) notes an individual from Curtiss-Wright Airport, a site that Mansueti overlooks, and which is based on a discarded specimen, NHSM 794, 23 March 1939. Another discarded specimen, a hatchling, from this locality is NHSM 804, 15 March 1947, and Cooper (1947b) mentions the hatchling and an adult found on this particular trip. Reed (1956b) records the species from two sites in Baltimore that were formerly vouchered in the collection of R. F. Daffin: Herring Run Swamp and a swamp near Moore’s Run, 0.5 mile S Radecke Avenue, both collected on 10 April 1954. The only extant specimen for the city is Westport (NHSM/HSB 17, 17 May 1958). Odell (1961) reports

the species from West Bay Avenue, Brooklyn. McCauley (1945) lists and plots 18 of Mansueti's (1941d) localities (19 if "near Woodstock," is included; this was a personal communication from W. H. McClellan to McCauley and apparently also to Mansueti). The three not accepted by McCauley are almost certainly due to either their vagueness or McCauley's inability to locate them. This creates a nice glut of hearsay on the maps of McCauley (1945) and especially Harris (1969, 1975).

Glyptemys muhlenbergii. This turtle was first documented in Maryland by McCauley and Mansueti (1943), for a specimen collected in Baltimore County on 8 August 1941. It is not clear why it took them two years to report it or why they felt the need to report it again (McCauley and Mansueti, 1944). The latter publication was probably the result of Mansueti's insistence to inform a less specialized audience, although it would not be the first time he published the same article twice (see *Storeria occipitomaculata* below). In the note from 1944 the authors make no reference to their earlier article and little of interest is added. However, an unusual benefit of McCauley and Mansueti (1944) is some additional descriptive notes concerning the specimen not included in the original report, as well as Mansueti's illustration of the specimen. Were it not for this information, this specimen would have been lost to science, since it lacked a specimen tag when it and the vast majority of the NHSM turtle collection was discovered in paper bags in a cranny of the Society's cellar in 1980. Although many specimens still had tags attached, many did not. Mansueti originally catalogued this specimen as NHSM 266 and then for no discernible reason recatalogued it as NHSM 450, the number stated in both notes. Mansueti (1941d) states that this species has not been found in Maryland, the most important of the many corrections that should have been listed on the errata slip that accompanies Mansueti (1941d).

"*Pseudemys floridana concinna*." On page 2, Mansueti (1941d) makes a careless reference to this taxon, implying that it occurs in his area of concern. It is a lapsus for *P. rubriventris*. McCauley (1945) maps a locality for this subspecies in the District of Columbia and attributes it to McAtee (1918), but McAtee only cites Dunn (1918), who records *Pseudemys concinna* from Fairfax County, Virginia. The *Pseudemys concinna/floridana* complex does not occur in Maryland or the District (e.g., Conant and Collins, 1991). Additional comments on this group are in the *Trachemys scripta* account.

Pseudemys rubriventris. I quote the first three sentences of Mansueti's (1941d) Remarks: "A twelve inch specimen was reported crushed on Smith Avenue in northwest Baltimore, near McMahon Quarry, and was recorded by a person who referred specifically to its red belly. Several specimens were noted below the dam of the Patapsco River at Glenartney. Another was seen in this river at Vineyard." First, only a small portion of Smith Avenue is located in Baltimore City and it is not particularly close to McMahon Quarry, which lies in Baltimore County. Suitable habitat for this predominantly coastal plain species is not present anywhere in this area, which lies in the piedmont. As usual, Mansueti provides no specifics for the two Patapsco River localities (Glenartney and Vineyard), which are also in the piedmont. However, in an earlier publication Mansueti (1941a)

states that the Patapsco River localities are nothing more than sightings and "very probably *rubriventris*." Wisely, McCauley (1945) and Cooper (1960, 1965) chose to ignore these reports. Harris (1966) states: "Specimens of this turtle have been seen and observed [*sic*] below the first dam [Bloede Dam] in the Lower [= Glenartney and vicinity] Patapsco State Park." The basis for this statement is not given, and Harris cites none of Mansueti's work nor, indeed, any literature at all.

Terrapene carolina. I confine my remarks to the status of this species in Baltimore and on the Allegheny Plateau. McCauley (1940) lists and plots one specimen from Baltimore, USNM 55562 (collected in 1890), and later (1945) maps but does not account for it. He plots it in the extreme south-central portion of the city, but specific locality data are not associated with this specimen, which is no longer in the collection (Miller, 2009; S. W. Gotte, personal communication, 2014). Mansueti (1941d) declines to list localities for this species and notes the widespread problem of feral individuals. Given the propensity for people to release this once common species in places other than where it was originally collected, in a departure from the rest of these listings I view certain undocumented sites as much more reliable than documented ones, of which there are only a few. As such, the only localities I consider valid are the reports by J. Norman (1939) who states: "The box [*sic*] Turtle is the most common of all the turtles found in these areas," Groves (1940) who notes: "Common all over the area [Cherry Hill]," and Buxbaum (1942) who writes: "This turtle is found everywhere in this locality [Gwynn's Falls area], being the most common of all the species found here." This "locality" would include the heavily wooded Gwynn's Falls Park and adjacent Leakin Park (ca. 1200 acres). J. Norman's (1939) Western Run Parkway site would later be vouchered by NHSM 171 (extant) and 172 (discarded), 12 August 1940.

Numerous authors have considered the Allegheny Plateau of Maryland to be well within the natural range of *T. carolina* (e.g., Carr, 1952; Adler, 1970; Conant and Collins, 1991; Ernst and McBreen, 1991; Dodd, 2001; Ernst and Lovich, 2009). Locally, McCauley (1945) states: "The box turtle, though not necessarily the commonest turtle in Maryland, is certainly the most in evidence throughout the state except upon the Alleghany Plateau where it is not generally common." He plots one locality, which he treats as a specimen record, but without explanation. Earlier (1940) he sources this record to Deep Creek Lake, Garrett County, apparently an individual in the collection of L. M. Llewellyn. Llewellyn's material typically went to the Carnegie Museum, but there is no record of this specimen in the collection (S. P. Rogers, personal communication, 2014) or elsewhere. A second record for Garrett County is provided by Cooper (1948b) for Swallow Falls State Park, one of 16 species that he states were "observed and collected," although there is no indication that this turtle was preserved. A third locality is mapped by Harris (1975); its basis is known only to him. Mansueti (1958) adds a fourth locality for Cranesville Swamp, the second of five dubious species he lists (see *Rana catesbeiana*—Miller, 2015). Given that the three specified sites for this species are heavily frequented by the public (Deep Creek Lake, Swallow Falls State Park) or well collected (Cranesville Swamp) and for the reason stated in my Baltimore City comments, I do not see

justification for accepting a natural widespread distribution of this species on the Allegheny Plateau of Maryland. However, E. L. Thompson (personal communications, 2006, 2014) found a copulating pair on the eastern flank of Big Savage Mountain, ca. 0.5 mile N Savage River Reservoir Dam. Unfortunately a precise date is not currently available, but it was sometime in the late 1990s during late May or early June. Thompson adds: “This area is very remote and I believe the turtles to be native.” Thompson also has a second locality for Garrett County where reproduction is taking place: off Red Hill Road, W JCT Westernport Road, based on a photograph sent to him of a hatchling from 2006 and an email reporting another hatchling from the same site in 2014. However, he is concerned about the proximity of this site to New Germany State Park, which lies ca. 1.0 mile due north and where he notes: “There is a history of turtles being released in the park . . .” The distance between the Big Savage Mountain and Red Hill Road sites is approximately 7.5 miles.

Trachemys scripta. This species is feral in Maryland (e.g., Cooper, 1959) and all three of the generally accepted subspecies have been recorded from the state under a variety of scientific and common names. It is beyond the scope of this article to deal with the numerous reports of this species in Maryland or to comment on the more important issue of which records are likely to represent established populations, but rather to note its treatment in Baltimore and make some additional comments. Contrary to the assertion of Cooper (1959), it is Groves (1940), using the name *Pseudemys troosti elegans*, not Mansueti (1941d), who first reports this species in Maryland, based on several young individuals from Cherry Hill, Baltimore. Mansueti (1941d) is hopelessly confused on this subject—he uses the name “*Pseudemys scripta troostii* (Wied),” but provides a description that matches *P. s. elegans*. Typically he provides no substantiation for his “near the vicinity of McMahon Quarry in northwest Baltimore” locality, other than noting that the animal had been shot. There is no specimen, no evidence of a population, no habitat description, and the locality data are vague and redundant. Further, McMahon Quarry, now defunct, is in Baltimore County. He also provides no explanation for his report from Glenartney, Patapsco State Park, although in an earlier reference (Mansueti 1941a) he mentions a “*Pseudemys scripta troostii* (Wied)” found in Glenartney Lake by F. Groves. However, Mansueti (1941a) is not listed in Mansueti (1941d). McCauley (1945) notes: “I have seen a specimen of *Pseudemys scripta troostii* about 8 inches long which was taken from a stream in the city of Baltimore . . .,” but gives no further details. Cooper (1959) cites four new localities, three of which—Lake Roland, Loch Raven Reservoir and Prettyboy (Reservoir) Dam area, Baltimore County—are based on “specimens” according to him. He then makes the puzzling statement: “It is extremely difficult to assign our [the NHSM’s] individual preserved specimens to either *troosti* or *elegans* . . .,” but the only specimens he cites are NHSM 911 (27 June 1947), 992 (9 June 1947) and 1053 (29 June 1947), all from Lake Roland. However, in the card file and catalogue all of these specimens, since discarded, are catalogued by Mansueti as *Pseudemys scripta troostii*. If Cooper questioned Mansueti’s identifications of any of these specimens, neither he nor anyone else emended the NHSM files.

A specimen overlooked by Cooper, also from Lake Roland and also discarded, is NHSM 1224, 20 July 1942, which presents further ambiguities. The typewritten file card, by the collector, identifies the specimen as *Pseudemys elegans*, but is also catalogued by Mansueti as *Pseudemys scripta troostii*. Harris (1966) records both *P. s. elegans* and *P. s. troosti* from Patapsco State Park, but provides no documentation for either. In his distributional surveys, Harris (1969, 1975) provides two maps for this species: one for “*Chrysemys s. elegans*” and the other for “*Chrysemys s. troosti*.” Two sites in Baltimore are mapped for the former taxon: one in northwestern Baltimore and the other in the extreme south-central part of the city. No localities in Baltimore are mapped for the latter taxon. The latter site is from Northwest Harbor (NHSM/HSB 28, 24 April 1959); the former site is Mansueti’s (as repeated by Cooper), but, as already noted, he confusingly lists it as “*Pseudemys scripta troostii* (Wied)” and then provides a description for *P. s. elegans*. In addition, the mapping of localities for a feral species based only on single reports or individuals, without attempting to distinguish them from populations is poor practice. Harris (1969, 1975) misreads Cooper (1959) and states, under *Chrysemys s. troosti*: “It is the author’s opinion that some of these records may be based on misidentification of *Chrysemys s. elegans*.” Of the four localities plotted by Harris, only one in the literature or museum collections (Lake Roland) has been specifically identified as *troostii*.

Cooper (1959) properly criticizes Reed (1956b) for listing all previous records for *Trachemys scripta* in Maryland under *Pseudemys scripta scripta*, but fails to note Reed’s bizarre handling of Smith (1904). Despite the title of Smith’s note, the only species discussed is *Pseudemys rugosa* (= *P. rubriventris*) and the locality is the confluence of Piscataway Creek and the Potomac River, Prince George’s County. However, Reed, under “Literature Pertaining to Distribution in Maryland,” lists Smith (1904) under *Pseudemys floridana concinna*, *Pseudemys rubriventris* and *Pseudemys scripta scripta*. Further, under “Distribution in Maryland,” Reed includes Prince George’s County under *P. f. concinna* and *P. s. scripta*, but not under *P. rubriventris*.

Continuing a rash of articles that began appearing in 2004, Harris (2006) attempts to deal with *Pseudemys* and *Trachemys* in Maryland, but there is no justification for his note, which, despite its title, is just an error-laden rehash confined to the feral aspect of these genera. There is nothing of consequence on *Pseudemys rubriventris*, the only indigenous species. Also present are the usual absurd Received and Accepted dates, incomprehensible in a journal completely controlled by Harris. Harris claims that “Several subspecies of *Trachemys scripta* have been introduced through the pet trade of the 1940’s and 1950’s and are thriving and reproducing in Maryland as well as elsewhere,” but provides no specifics for his statement. In roughly 800 field trips in Maryland from 1974 through 2014, only once did I locate a population of *T. scripta*. This was three *T. s. elegans* of different size classes preoccupied with ineffectually consuming the remains of a fish (apparently *Dorosoma cepedianum*) that was bobbing about in an unnamed tributary to the Little Gunpowder Falls, near (S) Bradshaw, Baltimore County, 7 April 1981. All three were easily netted and one was preserved (TSU 3997). More recently, Grogan (1994) reports a

population from Johnson Pond and from an unspecified point in the Wicomico River, both in Salisbury, Wicomico County. Following Cooper (1959), but not crediting him, Harris erroneously claims that Mansueti (1941d) is the first to report *Trachemys* in Maryland. As noted above, it is Groves (1940). Harris then claims that “McCauley (1945) mentions Mansueti’s record [sic; Mansueti mentions several localities] . . .,” but McCauley does no such thing. He states only that “there is evidence (Mansueti, 1941) that it [*Pseudemys scripta troostii*] is becoming naturalized in Maryland.” Harris further states: “In preserved material, it is difficult to assign a specimen to either subspecies [*T. s. elegans* or *T. s. troostii*].” This is another statement taken from Cooper (1959) without attribution, and its peculiarities are also dealt with above. Harris next asserts: “McCauley (1945) records both *Pseudemys floridana concinna* and *Pseudemys r. rubriventris* from Maryland. *Pseudemys c.* [sic] *concinna* is based on a report of a specimen from Plummers [sic] Island, District of Columbia (Brady, 1937).” First, McCauley does not recognize subspecies in *P. rubriventris*, although he errs at one point and uses the name *Pseudemys rubriventris rubriventris* on his map. Second, Brady uses the name *Pseudemys floridana concinna*, not *Pseudemys c. concinna*. Third, Brady did not report any specimens. Fourth, Plummer’s Island is in Montgomery County, not the District of Columbia. Harris makes this error again while criticizing Tobey’s (1985) map for *Chrysemys concinna concinna*. Although Harris spells Plummer’s Island correctly, Mount Vernon (Fairfax County, Virginia) is rendered as “Mt. Veron.” Harris’s criticism of Tobey would have been unnecessary if he was familiar with the work of Mitchell (1994) and Mitchell and Reay (1999). They do not map any of the records that Harris objects to. However, Mitchell (1994) does misstate the range of *P. concinna*: “The species occupies the southeastern one-third of North America from Maryland . . .” Other references that deal with feral *Pseudemys* in Maryland that Harris does not cite include Schwartz (1961, 1967), Hardy and Mansueti (1962), Nemuras and Sparhawk (1966), Iverson (1986, 1992) and Seidel and Dreslik (1996). Iverson states that the range of *P. concinna* includes “southeastern Virginia” (1986) and “eastern Virginia” (1992), but plots localities in the northern portion of the state, as well as two others that appear to include some combination of Maryland the District of Columbia. The bases for these sites are unknown. Seidel and Dreslik (1996) present a map that appears identical to Iverson’s insofar as Maryland and the District are concerned. They state: “*Pseudemys concinna* occurs from Maryland . . .” and map all of southern Maryland within its range, even though there is no basis for this (e.g., McCauley, 1945; Ernst and Barbour, 1972; Conant, 1975; Harris, 1975; Conant and Collins, 1991; Ernst and Lovich, 2009). As with McCauley, Harris has Cooper (1960) recognizing subspecies in *Pseudemys rubriventris*; he does not. Then Harris strangely appends his name to Cooper (1965), both in the text and in the literature citations, as though this article is a joint venture, which it is not. Continuing, Harris once again invokes subspecies in *P. rubriventris*, this time in one of his own notes (Harris, 1968), but the only name he uses is *Pseudemys rubriventris*. It would appear that Harris is under the misapprehension that *P. r. bangsi* has been revived, even though few have given it any credence since Conant (1951) questioned its validity, and Iverson and Graham (1990) clearly

demonstrate that it is not tenable. The only bit of original data in Harris (2006)—and I suspect this is the *raison d’être* of this misbegotten publication—is his report of what he believes to be only the second record of *Trachemys scripta scripta* from Maryland, which he erroneously bases on Cooper (1959). It is Reed (1956b) who first reports this taxon in Maryland, a paper that Harris cites. More important, if Harris had actually read Nemuras (1964)—yet again another note that he cites—he would have learned that Nemuras records the second locality from Maryland. Harris concludes as he began—citing without specifics “*Pseudemys r. rubriventris*” and *Trachemys scripta elegans* “In Northern [sic] Anne Arundel County . . .” Norden and Browning (2013) report a *Trachemys scripta scripta* from an unnamed tributary to Cunningham Cove, Baltimore County. Uncritically following Harris (2006), they state that “there are only two previous reports of the distinctive subspecies *T. s. scripta*.”

Kinosternidae

Kinosternon subrubrum. This predominantly, perhaps exclusively, coastal plain species in Maryland is reported by Mansueti (1941d), without evidence, from the piedmont sites of Gwynn’s Falls Park (Baltimore City) and Catonsville, Gwynn Oak Park, Randallstown and Towson (Baltimore County). Mansueti also reports the species from two other piedmont localities, Western Run Parkway (Baltimore City) and Glenartney (county not stated). The former site is apparently based on J. Norman (1939), who records a single individual and notes: “Another rare turtle in these areas is the Mud Turtle.” I attribute this record to an introduction, not natural occurrence. The latter locality is apparently based on NHSM 77-78, -- July 1935, which have been discarded. Mansueti (1939) does not list this species, but in Mansueti (1941a) he states: “This species is another inhabitant of the Glenartney Lake and Patapsco River. We have two large specimens from the Glenartney Lake in the Society’s Collection.” The card file of the NHSM states that NHSM 77-78 were identified by Mansueti and for both habitat considerations and reasons listed below I do not accept them. In all likelihood these specimens were *Sternotherus odoratus*. Further complicating the matter, Buxbaum (1942) states: “This turtle [*K. subrubrum*] has been recorded from Gwynn Oak Park [Baltimore County] having been observed by John Norman. It is more common than the Musk Turtle.” It is difficult to deal with this statement, except to note the absence of preserved material and the unsuitability of the habitat (piedmont vs. coastal plain). There may also have been miscommunication with Norman, who did report (J. Norman, 1941) and collect *Sternotherus odoratus* at this site (NHSM 758, 27 July 1940), but made no mention of *K. subrubrum* or any other species. Most important, Buxbaum’s final sentence appears to have nothing to do with *K. subrubrum* at Gwynn Oak Park, but is a near quotation of Mansueti’s (1941d): “This turtle [*Kinosternon subrubrum*] is more common than the Musk Turtle . . .”

Beyond these extremely doubtful localities, it is evident that Mansueti routinely confused *Kinosternon subrubrum* with *Sternotherus odoratus* and vice versa. In Mansueti (1940c) he reports collecting *K. subrubrum* in a pond along “Cameron Run” in the vicinity of Paxtang, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.

This is well outside the established range of this rare species in Pennsylvania (McCoy, 1982; Conant and Collins, 1991; Hulse et al., 2001). [Inexplicably the mud turtle is not even mentioned in Steele et al. (2010).] Mansueti goes on to state: “I received the unpleasant shock experienced by novices in handling these turtles; that is, an example of it musk-exuding qualities.” This, of course, is a trait that has frequently been associated with *Sternotherus odoratus*. In addition, NHSM 212 (Havre de Grace, Harford County, 30 April or 5 May 1942), NHSM 219 (conflicting data), NHSM 257 (vicinity Priest Bridge, Anne Arundel County, May 1942) are catalogued as *K. subrubrum* although they are all *S. odoratus*. Conversely, NHSM 462 (3.0 miles N Ocean City, Worcester County, 16 July 1945) is listed on the file card as *S. odoratus*, but entered in the catalogue, correctly, as *K. subrubrum*. Similarly, two discarded specimens, NHSM 463 (ca. 15 miles N Ocean City, Sussex County, Delaware, 13 July 1945) and NHSM 464 (5.0 miles N Ocean City, Worcester County, 14 July 1945) are recorded on the file cards as *S. odoratus*, but entered in the catalogue as *K. subrubrum*. All of these cataloguing errors were committed by Mansueti. Furthermore, the illustrations for *K. subrubrum* and *S. odoratus* in Mansueti (1941d: plate II), which are rendered by Mansueti, are a composite of the two species. McCauley (1945) and Harris (1969, 1975) place too much faith in Mansueti (1941d) and plot all of his piedmont sites. Both authors’ field experience with this species should have caused grave doubts about the legitimacy of these reports. In my experience, the Maryland piedmont does not provide suitable habitat for this species, even where lentic situations exist. The only record from Baltimore that I consider valid is Groves’ (1940) report for Cherry Hill. Reed (1956b) lists a strange specimen record for Baltimore—4200 block Hamilton Avenue, 25 May 1954—this is at this road’s intersection with US Route 1, and it is extremely doubtful that suitable habitat existed at this spot even 60 years ago. Reed probably recorded the data incorrectly; the specimen is stated to be in the collection of D. W. Linzey and may still be extant.

Sternotherus odoratus. Mansueti’s (1941d) account of this species could be dismissed out of hand for reasons just discussed under *Kinosternon subrubrum*; however, I examine his claims. His Remarks, quoted in full, are: “Because of its extreme aquatic habits, the Musk Turtle is rarely recorded. However, it is common, having been collected near Western Run Parkway [Baltimore City], Cherry Hill [Baltimore City], Herring Run and Gunpowder Falls Swamp [apparently Mansueti means Herring Run and Gunpowder Falls Swamps, which lie in Baltimore County], Glenartney [Baltimore and/or Howard Counties], Towson [Baltimore County], and near Ellicott City [Baltimore and/or Howard Counties].” Aside from immediately contradicting himself on the subject of abundance, once again we see the problems that arise when localities are listed without any supporting data. Some of these sites help define the range limit for this species and all are unvouchered, with the seeming exception of Western Run Parkway (NHSM 233, 15 August 1940). However, this specimen, which was catalogued by Mansueti, has been discarded so its identity cannot be verified. Furthermore, its stated collector, J. Norman (1939, 1941), does not record the species from this locality. The herpetofauna of Cherry Hill was surveyed by Groves (1940, reptiles) and Mansueti (1940a,

amphibians) in consecutive articles. Although Groves lists *K. subrubrum* he does not record *S. odoratus*. In the course of looking for amphibians, if Mansueti had found *Sternotherus* he would likely have informed Groves. Mansueti’s (1941d) listing of Glenartney is unsound; this is what he states (1941a) just eight months prior: “This species probably inhabits the Glenartney Lake, but I have never captured any in the whole park.” He goes on to mention some hearsay by fishermen as support. Mansueti’s “near Ellicott City” listing—an observation, not something “collected”—presumably made in the Patapsco River (by whom and when?) is yet another unsubstantiated claim. As for “Gunpowder Falls Swamp,” based on other specimens in the NHSM this locality probably refers to the swampy area along the north side of the Gunpowder Falls downstream from what is today US Route 40, but Mansueti never defines it, just as he rarely gives specifics for any of the localities he cites. His listing for Towson is quite dubious. Another dubious locality is provided by J. Norman (1939, 1941), who records the species from Curtiss-Wright Airport, Baltimore City, based on an individual that was given to him by C. F. Reed and J. F. Schreiber, Jr. J. Norman (1939) notes that he has “spent much time collecting in these territories . . .” and that “This was the only specimen taken in these areas.” Furthermore, the only stream at the airport, an unnamed tributary to Western Run (another of Norman’s collecting sites), appears to be too small and shallow for this species. The “specimen” that Norman refers to was not preserved, although there appears to be little doubt that it was correctly identified. McCauley (1940, 1945) plots six localities in the Baltimore area (none vouchered), including at least one for the city, but provides no explanation. These are apparently taken from Mansueti (1941d), although there are some discrepancies. Harris’s (1969, 1975) maps appear to duplicate McCauley’s.

Gekkonidae

Hemidactylus turcicus. Norden and Norden (“1989” 1991) report the first records of this exotic lizard from Baltimore. They misstate its native (Old World) range (“Mediterranean Basin”), even though citing McCoy (1970) who, in turn, does not faithfully quote Loveridge (1947). The Nordens cite one specimen from the 1400 block Andre Street (NHSM 2016, 23 August 1976), but overlook NHSM 2362 (19 October 1979) and NHSM 2363 (28 October 1979) from the same locality, which they collected. This would have better substantiated their claim of an established population. The Nordens also make the erroneous assertion that “this Maryland population is the only one known in North America above the level of north-eastern Texas.” At the time, several populations had been reported from latitudes north of northeastern Texas: Keiser (1984; fide Lee, 2008) records the species from Oxford, Lafayette County, Mississippi, and Paulissen and Buchanan (1990) report the species from Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas. Several localities exist for Oklahoma: Henniger and Black (1987) note its occurrence in Shawnee, Pottawatomie County, and at Lake Texoma, Marshall County; Murphy (1987; fide Henniger and Black, 1987) reports the species from Norman, Cleveland County, and Carpenter and Krupa (1989) state that it is “established in the state.” Norden and Norden (“1989” 1991) was published in the senior author’s

privately controlled journal—something of a Maryland tradition—such errors could have been avoided if their article had undergone peer review.

Iguanidae

Sceloporus undulatus. Mansueti (1941d) lists 17 localities where this “very abundant” lizard has been “taken”: seven in Anne Arundel County, three in Baltimore City and seven in Baltimore County. Eleven of these sites are on the coastal plain, four are in the piedmont but proximate to the Fall Line, and two are transitional. For a species that is “very abundant” one would expect a uniform distribution within Mansueti’s 20-mile radius criterion, not a lopsided one largely confined to the coastal plain. Furthermore, of Mansueti’s 17 localities only four were vouchered during his time: Anne Arundel County: near Crownsville (NHSM 47, 29 May 1938; three others with the same data but different catalogue numbers have been discarded) and Camp Linstead, Severna Park (NHSM 59, 10 June 1939); Baltimore County: near Glenartney (NHSM 42, July 1938; there are two other discarded NHSM specimens from Glenartney) and Ilchester (NHSM 160, 25 September 1941; NHSM 162, 14 September 1941). Mansueti’s two unvouchered piedmont sites, both from Baltimore County, are: Gwynn Oak Park, which is presumably based on Fowler (1925), who, with no substantiation, lists the species from “Gynn [*sic*] Oak near Baltimore.” Buxbaum’s (1942) entire account for this species consists of the statement: “This specimen [*sic*] was reported from Gwynn Oak Park [Baltimore County] in 1915 [*sic*].” I do not know the basis of this statement, but it also appears to stem from Fowler. Also undocumented at the time is “Gunpowder Falls region,” although it was vouchered shortly afterward by NHSM 259, 10 October 1942, since discarded. Two overlooked sites by Mansueti, the first in the piedmont of Baltimore County, the second on the coastal plain, are: Lake Roland (NHSM 113, -- June 1941) and Bay Shore (NHSM 61, 14 May 1937); both have also been discarded. Another overlooked site by Mansueti is Green Haven, Anne Arundel County (NHSM 141, 20 July 1941). Mansueti (1941d) states that this species is known from “all collecting points in the Upper and Lower Patapsco State Parks . . .” This would imply Howard County in addition to Baltimore County. McClellan et al. (1943) also list the fence lizard from Lower Patapsco State Park, Howard County; however, there is no documentation for this claim. Eventually *S. undulatus* would be vouchered from Howard County, based on a specimen from Elkridge, Patapsco State Park (USNM 141354, 4 May 1949), but Elkridge was not part of the park according to Mansueti’s (1941d) map.

Mansueti’s three records for Baltimore City are Cherry Hill, Fort Armistead and Herring Run Park; only Cherry Hill (Groves, 1940) has substantiation. Another site for Baltimore is provided by Reed (1956a), who lists a specimen, since discarded, for “Bayview woods near City Hospitals,” 7 May 1955. This site is now known as the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. NHSM 1101, -- July 1946 (discarded), may be from this locality, although the locality is listed as “Baltimore City Hospital.” Odell (1961) lists the species from West Bay Avenue, Brooklyn. Only two specimens exist from Baltimore: Roland Park (USNM 141351, 15 April 1949) and Curtis Bay (NHSM/HSB 2, 5

October 1957). The former site is open to skepticism. This tony, heavily populated area appears unsuited to the species. However, if it was taken, say, to the west of residential Roland Park on the exposed xeric slope along the east side of the Jones Falls it would be uncontroversial. A case in point involves a specimen from “Randallstown,” Baltimore County (TSU 289, 7 June 1965). For many years this record had struck me as dubious; eventually I learned that it was collected 3.5 miles NW Randallstown at Soldiers Delight, a serpentine barren where the species was already documented (TSU 2250, 7 June 1978). McCauley (1945), following Mansueti (1941d), lists Cherry Hill and Herring Run Park, but plots only the latter. Harris (1969, 1975) merely copies McCauley, overlooking his own Curtis Bay specimen.

Perhaps the most nonsensical herpetological record proffered by Mansueti is his listing of this species from Cranesville Swamp, Garrett County, published when he was 35 (Mansueti, 1958). A more unsuitable locality in the state of Maryland would be hard to find. E. L. Thompson, who has done field work throughout western Maryland since 1977, finds it preposterous, as do I. There are no documented sites for this lizard on the Allegheny Plateau of Maryland.

Scincidae

Plestiodon fasciatus. This species has a much more limited distribution in the Maryland piedmont than *Sceloporus undulatus* (McClellan et al., 1943; McCauley, 1945; Harris, 1975; R. W. Miller, personal observations). In the same vein Mansueti (1941d) notes: “This lizard has not been found frequently in this area . . .” He proceeds to list nine localities, only two of which are documented: Avalon, Baltimore County (NHSM 143, 16 June 1938) and Camp Linstead (Severna Park), Anne Arundel County (NHSM 82, -- July 1935—discarded; NHSM 2067, 30 May 1939). One site, “Gunpowder Falls at the intersection of Belair Road [US Route 1] and Philadelphia Road [MD Route 7],” makes no sense, although NHSM 403 is from near JCT US Route 1 and Gunpowder Falls, Baltimore County, 8 June 1941. This specimen is extant and was collected by Mansueti. Also, there is a discarded specimen, NHSM 99, from “Gunpowder Falls near the Old Philadelphia Road [MD Route 7],” Baltimore County, 8 May 1940. Another listed locality, “possibly Herring Run,” is hopelessly vague as well as pointless. Overlooked by Mansueti (1941d) is the only documented record for Baltimore City: JCT Lexington Street and Warwick Avenue (NHSM 130, 13 March 1941); there are additional specimens in the NHSM supporting this locality. McClellan et al. (1943) would rectify this omission, going into detail about this atypical locality (“a group of partly vacant lots”) for which McClellan expresses amazement. This site is presumably the one plotted by Harris (1969, 1975). As with *Sceloporus undulatus*, Reed (1956a) lists the locality of “Bayview woods near City Hospitals,” Baltimore (five specimens from three dates in the R. F. Daffin collection), but no material is extant. There are several oddities in the localities listed by McClellan et al. (1943) vis-à-vis Mansueti (1941d): Anne Arundel County: Lake Shore is omitted from the former; Baltimore County: “Upper Patapsco State Park, near Avalon” should read Lower Patapsco State Park, near Avalon, although mention of either modifier is unnecessary; “Chase, Gunpowder Falls” should presumably read Chase, Gunpowder River, al-

though mention of either stream is again unnecessary; Mansueti lists it merely as Chase. McClellan (in McClellan et al., 1943), in a stunning admission of extreme foolishness, states: “the writer has tried for the past fifteen years to colonize the common skink in the vicinity of Woodstock College [Baltimore County], but hitherto without success, although nearly a hundred specimens of various ages, brought from Charles and St. Mary’s Counties [Maryland], have been released in all. The species does not seem to thrive within the Piedmont Plateau.” McCauley (1945) erroneously states: “It [*Plestiodon fasciatus*] is found upon most of the Piedmont Plateau . . .,” yet his locality list and map show that it has scarcely been recorded from the piedmont at all.

Plestiodon laticeps. Mansueti (1941d) lists three localities for this infrequently collected lizard, but at the time there was no support for Lake Shore (Anne Arundel County). McClellan et al. (1943) source the Lake Shore report to C. F. Reed and state that it is based on a preserved specimen, but Reed (1956a, 1957) indicates that it was only an observation made in 1935 (former publication) or summer 1936 (latter publication). Given the strong possibility that Reed may have confused *P. laticeps* with *P. fasciatus*, I do not think this report is acceptable. [There is an uncatalogued *Plestiodon* in the NHSM that was formerly in Reed’s collection, from Cub Hill, Baltimore County, 11 May 1957, that was collected and labeled by him as *Eumeces* (= *Plestiodon*) *laticeps* and presumably represents the locality plotted in Reed (1958). This specimen has not been closely examined, but based on geography is almost certainly *P. fasciatus*.] McCauley (1945) and Reed (1956a) list Severna Park, Anne Arundel County, and attribute it to Mansueti (1941d), but Mansueti does not list this locality. He does list Camp Linstead, which is in Severna Park, but considers the locality hypothetical. However, McClellan et al. (1943) state: “One taken at Camp Linstead by John Norman is alive in captivity.” There is no indication that this specimen was preserved. Cooper (1956), following several documented localities, concludes with the following sites that he does not reference: “Briarcliff; Lake Shore; Severna Park; Linstead.” Briarcliff is redundant on the Joyce Lane specimen he cites and, as has just been noted, “Linstead” is redundant on Severna Park.

Teiidae

Aspidoscelis sexlineata. Mansueti (1941d) lists seven localities, all in Anne Arundel County, where this lizard “has been found collected [*sic*] in colonies . . .,” but there is no documentation for Bodkin Point, Fairview, Lake Shore and near Shore Acres. For two other sites, Camp Linstead (NHSM 69, 10 June 1939) and Fort Smallwood (NHSM 389-390, -- June 1940) the specimens have been discarded. Overlooked by Mansueti is Green Haven, Anne Arundel County (NHSM 154, 20 July 1941). McClellan et al. (1943) list six of Mansueti’s sites, but omit Bodkin Point, overlook Green Haven, and add Indian Landing (Anne Arundel County). The Indian Landing site, which is presumably based on NHSM 103, 16 June 1941 (catalogue data), has been discarded; more important, the card file data state that the specimen is from along Rock Creek, near Fort Smallwood, 16 June 1940. These two localities are about 8.5 miles apart. Mansueti (1941d) concludes his Remarks with the

enigmatic statement: “North of these points in Maryland, it is not commonly found.” This statement may be an allusion to MCZ 984 from “Baltimore Md.”; received -- July 1859, which is cited by Burt (1931), a reference Mansueti lists in his bibliography. At the time and for over a century, this was the most northerly locality for the species in the eastern United States and still remains so for the Atlantic coastal plain. McClellan et al. state that they believe their Furnace Branch, Anne Arundel County, locality is the northernmost locality for Maryland, but they also list Burt (1931) in their bibliography and overlook his listing for the MCZ record from Baltimore. Cooper (1948a) states that “Glen Burnie [Anne Arundel County] . . . is the northernmost locality for the species in Maryland’s Western Shore,” but provides no substantiation for this statement or any other in this carelessly prepared article. The only specimen from Baltimore with specific data is NHSM/HSB 127 from JCT Chemical Road and Hawkins Point Road (MD Route 173), Curtis Bay, -- April 1961. I saw but was unable to catch an individual along Tanyard Cove Road, 0.1 mile NW JCT Marley Neck Boulevard, Anne Arundel County, 1 May 1990. This is 1.9 miles S of the NHSM/HSB record.

Colubridae

Carphophis amoenus. Mansueti (1941d) lists nine localities where this species has been “collected”; however, four of them are unvouchered: Gunpowder Falls area and Relay (Baltimore County), Avalon and Orange Grove (county not stated by Mansueti, as they never are, but either Baltimore County or Howard County or both). For two others, from Anne Arundel County, the specimens have been discarded: Crownsville (NHSM 71, 29 May 1938) and Furnace Branch (NHSM 110, 23 June 1941; NHSM 138-139, 20 July 1941). His Cherry Hill site is presumably based on Groves (1940) and is one of only three specific localities for Baltimore. The others are West Bay Avenue, Brooklyn (Odell, 1961) and Curtis Bay, which is represented by several specimens: NHSM 2381, -- May 1955; NHSM/HSB 290, 17 May 1961; NHSM/HSB 294-295, 28 April 1958; NHSM/HSB 329-331, -- June 1962; NHSM/HSB 420, 27 January (*sic*) 1964. Two sites overlooked by Mansueti (specimens discarded) are: near Shore Acres, Anne Arundel County (NHSM 84, -- -- 1934) and Hollofield, Baltimore County (NHSM 101, 16 May 1934). McCauley (1945) maps a site in extreme southeastern Baltimore, but his documentation is no more specific than “Baltimore,” based on a discarded specimen formerly in the collection of Johns Hopkins University. Harris’s (1969, 1975) maps for Baltimore follow McCauley.

Cemophora coccinea. Mansueti (1941d) does not mention this rarely collected species, even though he was aware of Kelly et al. (1936) who record it from Severn, Anne Arundel County, and near St. Denis, Baltimore County, both of which fall into Mansueti’s purview. McCauley (1945) was the first to reject these localities and this has been followed by all others, with the exceptions of Fowler (1945) and Reed (1956c). [An error-laden note by Harris (2013) concerning this species in Maryland will be dealt with at another time.] The northernmost locality for *Cemophora coccinea* in Maryland is MCZ 750, from “Baltimore,” collected in 1859. McCauley was not aware of this record and Fowler (1945) was the first to report it. However, he

erroneously states the year of collection as 1862 and the collector as “A. Wyatt.” Cooper (1950, 1960, 1965), Littleford (1955), Reed (1956c), Harris (1969, 1975) and Committee . . . (1973) repeat Fowler’s errors. The collector is Alpheus Hyatt II (1838–1902), who also collected *Lampropeltis getula* (MCZ 806, -- -- 1859—discarded) and *Opheodrys aestivus* (MCZ 758, -- -- 1860—discarded) from “Baltimore,” in addition to the *Aspidoscelis sexlineata* from Baltimore noted above. All four species are characteristic of the coastal plain in Maryland; unfortunately precise locality data are lacking. Cooper (1950) has been the only worker to suggest that the specimen may not have been taken in Baltimore per se, but rather from “in or near the South Baltimore suburbs since this locality is near the Coastal Plain region of the state, where the species would be expected.” Presumably his skepticism would have grown had he known about (1) the other Hyatt specimens, in particular the *Aspidoscelis*, and (2) John F. Weishampel, Jr.’s “Map of Baltimore,” published in 1859 (his version of 1872 has the same dimensions), which shows that Baltimore was considerably smaller at the time of Hyatt’s activity, thus reducing suitable (coastal plain) habitat from what exists today. Like Cooper, I place no great confidence that Hyatt’s material was literally taken in the Baltimore City of his time or necessarily even in Baltimore County. Possibly the specimens were taken south of the Patapsco River in Anne Arundel County, where most *Aspidoscelis* and *Cemophora* are documented in an unambiguous manner.

Coluber constrictor. McCauley (1940) lists and plots and later (1945) maps one site for Baltimore, Druid Hill Park, apparently based on NHSM 3, -- July 1933, which has since been discarded. Due to its abundance no localities are listed by Mansueti (1941d); however, only five localities from his area of concern are or were documented in the NHSM: Anne Arundel County: Green Haven (NHSM 125, 20 July 1941); Linthicum Heights (NHSM 626, 26 June 1933—discarded); Baltimore City: Montebello Filtration Plant (NHSM 165, 11 May 1941); Baltimore County: near Glenartney, Patapsco State Park (NHSM 72, 3 April 1939); Glenartney, Patapsco State Park (NHSM 187, 2 April 1939—discarded); Vineyard, Patapsco State Park (NHSM 397, 16 May 1939). Additional records for Baltimore are: Herring Run Park (NHSM 561, 7 June 1946—discarded); Hillsdale (NHSM 767, no date); JCT South Monroe Street and Washington Boulevard (NHSM/HSB 479, 3 June 1958). Literature records for Baltimore: Groves (1936, 1940) lists the species from Cherry Hill, Cohen (1948) reports several individuals from Western Run Parkway, Reed (1956c) records a specimen, since discarded, from White Avenue, “W” (NW) JCT Belair Road (US Route 1), 18 September 1952, and Odell (1961) lists the species from West Bay Avenue, Brooklyn. Harris (1969, 1975) copies McCauley’s (1945) Baltimore site and adds another locality of unknown provenance, possibly Groves (1936 or 1940).

Diadophis punctatus. Mansueti (1941d) lists 16 localities where this species has been “collected,” but only two, from Baltimore County, are or were vouchered at the time: Glenartney, Patapsco State Park (NHSM 137, -- September 1941) and JCT Belair Road (US Route 1) and Gunpowder Falls (NHSM 123, 8 June 1941—discarded). Overlooked by Mansueti

are the following sites from Baltimore County: Randallstown (NHSM 87, -- August 1938) and Cockeysville (NHSM 635, -- June 1937). Both specimens have since been discarded. McCauley (1945) lists and maps a site for Homewood, Baltimore City, apparently a specimen formerly in the Johns Hopkins University collection, but it is treated as a literature record. In a departure from McCauley (1945), Harris (1969, 1975) plots at least one and possibly up to three sites for Baltimore; their bases are not clear. The species has been documented in Baltimore from the following sites: JCT Belvedere Avenue (now Northern Parkway at this point) and Jones Falls (NHSM 798, 11 August 1940—discarded); Frankford Avenue (NHSM 2269, no date; NHSM/HSB 159, 12 May 1958); Forest Park Golf Course (NHSM 2429, -- May 1959); Herring Run Park (NHSM 2443, -- June 1960; NHSM 2450, -- -- 1960); Druid Hill Park (TSU 1944, 28 September 1972). Literature records for Baltimore: Cross Country Boulevard (Reed, 1938), Western Run Parkway (J. Norman, 1939) and Cherry Hill (Groves, 1940). In addition, Reed (1956c) lists five sites for Baltimore: Cross Country Boulevard near JCT Glen Avenue, summer 1936; Hanlon Park, 11 April 1953; JCT Reisterstown Road (MD Route 140) and Rogers Avenue, 25 April 1954; Valley View Avenue “E” (SE) JCT Belair Road (US Route 1), 1 June 1954; JCT Hamilton Avenue and Newholme Avenue, 8 August 1956 and 25 October 1956. The last site may still be vouchered; specimens from the others have been discarded.

Heterodon platirhinos. McCauley (1940) lists and plots and later (1945) maps but does not list one record for Baltimore, Brooklyn, and cites Kelly et al. (1936) as the source. However, they list the site as “Brooklyn, Baltimore Co.” There appear to be no unequivocal records for the city. Mansueti (1941d) lists 11 sites for this species and states that it has been observed at “many other localities.” However, only three of his sites, all from the piedmont of Baltimore County, are or were documented at the time: Glenartney (NHSM 20, -- June 1936—discarded); Loch Raven (NHSM 53-54, -- July 1935) and between Ilchester and Orange Grove (NHSM 134-135, 29 September 1940—discarded). His five coastal plain sites, all from Anne Arundel County and all plausible, have no support. The one documented locality from the coastal plain, Green Haven, Anne Arundel County (NHSM 124, 20 July 1941), is overlooked by Mansueti.

Lampropeltis getula. Among “Other reptiles that may or should inhabit this area [Patapsco State Park] . . .,” Mansueti (1939) lists the kingsnake, although it had been reported earlier from Avalon, Glenartney and Vineyard, Baltimore County, by Kelly et al. (1936) and Robertson (1936). Of the 18 localities listed by Mansueti (1941d), none are vouchered. He reports two sites for Baltimore, both on the coastal plain: Brooklyn and Cherry Hill; the former presumably sources to Robertson (1936) or Kelly et al. (1936), the latter to Groves (1940). According to J. E. Cooper (personal communication, 1978), H. C. Robertson is “the one responsible for probably all of the sad misinformation . . .” in Kelly et al. (1936), which has been noted to varying degrees by McCauley (1945), Conant (1946), Cooper (1953, 1966), Hardy and Mansueti (1962) and Harris (1975). Kelly et al.’s Brooklyn locality is certainly plausible and is accepted and plotted by McCauley (1945). However, in Kelly et al. (1936) and Robertson (1936) one finds a continuum of reports ranging

from the acceptable to the strange. Robertson's report of *L. getula* from Swanton, Garrett County, is an example of the latter (McCauley, 1945); his report from the piedmont site of Sweet Air, Baltimore County (accepted by McCauley and reflexively by Harris, 1969, 1975), is another oddity I take the opportunity to reject. This site falls into Mansueti's (1941d) purview, but he does not mention it. [A site mapped by McCauley (1945) due east of Sweet Air on the Baltimore County-Harford County boundary (Little Gunpowder Falls) is not accounted for in the text. It appears to be an erroneous plotting of Mansueti's (1941d) "Gunpowder Falls near Belair Road" locality.] Kelly et al.'s (1936) and Robertson's (1936) unvouchered report from Ilchester, Howard County, may or may not be valid, but given their track record it seems best to delete this piedmont locality as well. Reed (1956c) provides a third locality for the coastal plain of Baltimore: Moore's Run, S Radecke Avenue, 11 April 1953, but the specimen on which it is based has been discarded. The only extant specimen from Baltimore is UF 41145 from Curtis Bay, -- June 1961. The congested map of McCauley is followed by Harris (1969, 1975).

Mansueti (1941a) reports a highly unusual date of early occurrence for this species, 5 February 1940, and then 15 pages later in what appears to be the original report (Mansueti 1941b) gives the date of 11 February 1940. Since 5 February was a Monday and 11 February was a Sunday, it is likely that the latter date is the correct one since Monday would have been a school day. This may be minutiae, but it is indicative of the lack of attention to detail that pervades Mansueti's herpetological work.

Lampropeltis triangulum. Mansueti (1941d), with varying degrees of vagueness, lists 11 localities: two in Baltimore City, six in Baltimore County, two straddling the Baltimore County-Howard County boundary, and one in Howard County. Of these sites only two, both in Baltimore County, are or were vouchered: (near) Reisterstown (NHSM 281, -- August 1941), lower Patapsco State Park (NHSM 756, 15 October 1939—discarded), and an unspecified site in Patapsco State Park (NHSM 757, 17 July 1940). Documentation for Mansueti's coastal plain sites of Essex, "Middle River Region," and near the Herring Run Swamp (Baltimore County) would have been welcome, but does not exist. The only extant specimen for the coastal plain of Baltimore County is Mitchell Road, Back River Neck (NHSM 875, 20 November 1946). Mansueti's record for "northwest Baltimore" (more accurately west-central Baltimore) is based on NHSM 478-479, 483, 486-494 from Gwynn's Falls Parkway, near Lake Ashburton, collected between 1939 and 1942. Leake (1938) defined this site more fully as "a very large lot . . . bounded by the Western Maryland railroad tracks, Gwynn's Falls Parkway, Hilton Street and Liberty Heights Avenue." Overlooked by Mansueti are two vouchered sites for Baltimore County: Liberty Road (MD Route 26) near North Branch Patapsco River (e.g., NHSM 480-481, 20 September 1939) and "Green Spring Avenue between Smith Avenue and Falls Road"—presumably this should read "Smith Avenue between Falls Road [MD Route 25] and Green Spring Avenue" (NHSM 485, 14 June 1939), as well as a literature record for Smith Avenue near Curtiss-Wright Airport (J. Norman, 1939). McCauley (1945) plots three sites for Baltimore, one of which, a specimen record in the extreme southeastern (coastal plain) portion, is not in accord with the

data he cites, nor can I account for it. Additional sites for Baltimore are: near Carlin's Park (NHSM 581, 13 June 1944); Ashburton Park (NHSM 754, 24 April 1942; NHSM 755, 18 April 1942); 6308 Green Spring Avenue (NHSM 2539, 18 April 1956), "Hillsdale Golf Course" (Forest Park Golf Course) (NHSM 2540, 1 June 1956); Green Spring Avenue (NHSM/HSH 59, 8 June 1959); Cylburn Park (TSU 841, 9 May 1971; Groves, 1972) and Gwynn's Falls (USNM 19137, -- -- 1892). The most recent record for Baltimore is a large adult that I found along the Penn-Central Railroad (now Conrail) a few yards south of the Interstate Route 83 overpass on 13 July 1974, and for which I possess several photographs. Harris's (1969, 1975) maps for Baltimore appear to follow McCauley.

As an example of how a single important specimen can have the locality data botched, the following case is illustrative; the date of collection (2 June 1940) and the collector (R. J. Mansueti) are not at issue. Mansueti (1941d), unknowingly, reports the first locality, Cove Point, Calvert County, for this species in any of the five coastal plain counties that constitute southern Maryland, but there is no evidence for it. He evidently confuses Cove Point with a specimen (NHSM 260) he (1942b) reports from Solomon's Island Road (MD Route 2; now MD Route 2/4), ca. 4.0 miles S Port Republic, Calvert County. McCauley (1945) also lists the locality as 4.0 miles S Port Republic. Further confusing the matter, the NHSM catalogue data, in Mansueti's handwriting, lists the specimen as being from Prince Frederick (Calvert County), which is ca. 4.0 miles N Port Republic. Conversely, the NHSM file card data—almost always more reliable and complete than the generally sketchy catalogue data—state Solomon's Island Road, 4.0 miles S Prince Frederick. Hardy and Mansueti (1962) list the locality as merely Port Republic.

Nerodia sipedon. Surprisingly few records are available for Baltimore. Groves (1940) notes that the species is "rather common" at Cherry Hill. McCauley (1940) lists and plots and later (1945) maps but does not list one specimen for Baltimore (Herring Run Park). This was in the collection of E. Cohen, but it has been discarded. Mansueti (1941d) views the species as too common to bother with. Buxbaum (1942) records that "This snake is found nearly everywhere in the [Gwynn's Falls] area . . ." Lyons (1949) reports the species from Wyman Park "in a stream [Stony Run] that comes down from Hopkins [Johns Hopkins University]." Reed (1956c) lists two specimens for Moore's Run, S Radecke Avenue, Baltimore, 11 April 1953 and 20 June 1956. One, formerly in the collection of R. F. Daffin, has been discarded; the other, in the collection of D. W. Linzey, may still be extant. Harris (1969, 1975) plots one locality for Baltimore, although it is not McCauley's, and its basis is not in the public domain. The only extant specimen from the city that has specific data is from Western Run (NHSM 765, 14 September 1942).

Opheodrys aestivus. This species is overwhelmingly confined to the coastal plain in Maryland, with little documented encroachment into the uplands (McCauley, 1945; R. W. Miller, personal observations). Mansueti (1941d) lists 16 localities where this species has been "collected and observed": five in Anne Arundel County, five in Baltimore City, four in Baltimore

County, and two that are in Baltimore County or Howard County or both. Only one site mentioned by Mansueti is documented: Camp Linstead, Severna Park, Anne Arundel County (NHSM 23, -- May 1938; NHSM 109, -- June 1936; NHSM 1245, hatched 20 August 1941), and all of these specimens have been discarded. Mansueti's report from Cherry Hill, Baltimore, is presumably that of Groves (1940). Mansueti overlooks the only documented site for Baltimore at the time: Pimlico (NHSM 766, 9 August 1941); it too has been discarded. The only extant specimen with a specific locality from Baltimore is NHSM/HS 51, 12 May 1959, from Curtis Bay. Odell (1961) lists the species from West Bay Avenue, Brooklyn. One of Mansueti's reports from the piedmont of Baltimore County, Texas, would constitute a range limit record and should be disregarded in the absence of documentation. Another piedmont "locality," Gunpowder Falls area, may have some credibility lent to it by NHSM 1388 (discarded), stated to have been collected "about midway between Overlea [Baltimore County] and Gunpowder Falls, 50 feet off highway [presumably US Route 1]," 10 April 1945, collector unknown. Reed (1956c) also records a specimen (discarded) from Magnolia Avenue near JCT Silver Spring Road, 5 June 1956. The Texas site is accepted by McCauley (1945) and reflexively by Harris (1969, 1975); the Gunpowder Falls area site is not plotted by McCauley (or Harris), no doubt due to its vagueness (Mansueti does define it in his accounts of *Desmognathus fuscus* and *Acris crepitans*). McCauley also accepts and plots another piedmont site for Baltimore County, Putty Hill, proffered by Kelly et al. (1936). This is another range limit record that is hearsay. It may or may not be valid, but accepting virtually anything in this extraordinarily poor work is unwise. Harris's (1969, 1975) maps for Baltimore are identical to McCauley's.

Pantherophis obsoletus. Although Mansueti (1941d) states that this species is "just as common as the Black Racer [*Coluber constrictor*] . . .," for which he lists no localities, he nevertheless lists 11 for the rat snake. Only four, all from Baltimore County, are or were vouchered at the time: Orange Grove (NHSM 90, 29 October 1938; NHSM 186, 13 May 1940—both discarded); Vineyard (NHSM 185, 28 May 1939); near Parkville (NHSM 262, May 1939—discarded); Woodstock College (NHSM 2048, hatched 16–22 October 1940). The only vouchered records for Baltimore City are Forest Park (NHSM 1130, 25 May 1942) and Curtis Bay (NHSM/HS 358–359 and UF 41142–41144, hatched 10 September 1962). The former site is overlooked by Harris (1969, 1975); the latter he presumably plots. Odell (1961) records the species from West Bay Avenue, Brooklyn, Baltimore.

Regina septemvittata. Among "Other reptiles that may or should inhabit this area [Patapsco State Park] . . .," Mansueti (1939) lists the queen snake, although it had been reported earlier from Glenartney, Baltimore County, by Robertson (1933) and Kelly et al. (1936). Mansueti (1941d) lists 11 plottable localities, but only three were vouchered at the time: one from Baltimore City: Western Run Parkway (NHSM 174–175, 5 May 1940) and two from Baltimore County: Avalon, Patapsco State Park (NHSM 19, -- July 1936) and Orange Grove, Patapsco State Park (NHSM 243, 30 April 1940). His Herring Run Park (Baltimore City) claim would be vouchered later (NHSM 818, 822, 825, 26 April 1947; 825 has been discarded). Overlooked or unavailable to McCauley (1945) is a specimen from Mount

Olivet Cemetery, Baltimore (USNM 29245, 8 August 1901). Other records for Baltimore: Cross Country Boulevard (Reed, 1938; later stated as "Cross Country Blvd. or Western Run Parkway"—Reed, 1956c); Western Run Parkway (J. Norman, 1939); Cherry Hill (Groves, 1940); Dead Run, Leakin Park (Buxbaum, 1942); St. Stanislaus Cemetery, near Dundalk Avenue (NHSM 1098, 20 April 1946); Hamilton Avenue, 1.0 mile "S" (SE) JCT Belair Road (US Route 1), 18 June and 25 August 1952 (Reed, 1956c; specimens discarded); Moore's Run, N Radecke Avenue, 8 August 1956 (Reed, 1956c; specimen may be extant). Both of McCauley's (1945) plotted sites for Baltimore: Homewood (Johns Hopkins University) and Mount Washington (E. Cohen collection), are based on specimens that have since been discarded. McCauley (1945) also lists and plots Mansueti's "Jones and Gwynns Falls" sites in Baltimore City, even though about half of each stream lies in Baltimore County. Oddly, Harris's (1969, 1975) maps for Baltimore are in stark contrast to McCauley's.

Hardy and Mansueti (1962) list two strange records for this species in Calvert County: Camp Boy Haven and "Camp Washington." The latter locality, which they attribute to J. A. Fowler, is nonexistent and Fowler has no knowledge of it (Miller, 1984). Regarding the former site, the authors provide no important details, such as who found the snake and when, and there is no indication that it was preserved. J. D. Hardy, Jr. was emailed several times with these concerns, all to no avail. As such, I consider this record to be insufficiently documented and suggest that it be discarded.

Storeria dekayi. A considerable amount of nonsense is present in Mansueti's (1939) account of this species: "the Dekay Snake sometimes called by laymen the 'copperhead', which of course is untrue. When angry, this snake can put on a great show for a person, although its bite is hardly worth paying attention to. They are very common in the Preserve [Patapsco State Park] and are sometimes found in numbers together as many as eight or ten snakes." Oblivious to what he has previously written, Mansueti (1941a) states: "This tiny snake is very rare in the park . . . I have never collected any . . ."

McCauley (1940) lists and plots three localities for Baltimore and later (1945) maps but does not list them. Two are vouchered: Pimlico (NHSM 16, 18 April 1938; NHSM 18, -- May 1937—discarded) and near Druid Hill Park (NHSM 17, -- June 1935). Mansueti (1941d) considers this species too common to list, but only five localities from his area of concern were present in the NHSM collection—the aforementioned specimens from Baltimore City and the following: Baltimore City: lot bordered by North Calverton Road, West Lexington Street and North Warwick Avenue (NHSM 156, 22 April 1941—discarded); Howard County: near Union Dam, Patapsco State Park (NHSM 194–195, -- May 1941—discarded); Baltimore City: Washington Boulevard at Gwynn's Falls (NHSM 388, 29 September 1935—discarded). There are several additional sites for this species in Baltimore City: near 6000 block Yorkshire Drive (CM 43524, -- May 1966); Ashburton Park (NHSM 528, 27 April 1946); Herring Run Park (NHSM 820, 26 April 1947); "Bentalou Street at Baltimore and Ohio Railroad bridge" (probably JCT North Bentalou Street and Western Maryland Railway bridge)

(NHSM 1460-1462, 29 March 1945); Govans (TSU 10-11, 21 October 1966); JCT Hillen Road and Woodbourne Avenue (TSU 806-807, 29 July 1972); Baltimore Cemetery (UF 41170, 7 September 1962); Druid Hill Park (USNM 27492-27495, -- August 1900); 200 yards S JCT Presstman Street and North Pulaski Street (USNM 141449, 30 April 1949); Roland Park (USNM 141450, 15 April 1949). Additional specimens from Pimlico are: NHSM 2590, 1 April 1960 and USNM 141448, 6 April 1942. Literature records for Baltimore: East Monument Street (E JCT Edison Highway), Baltimore Brick Company (Cohen, 1936), Western Run Parkway (J. Norman, 1939) and Cherry Hill (Groves, 1940). Reed (1956c) lists five localities for Baltimore vouchered in private collections: Hanlon Park, 11 April 1953; Pimlico, 15 October 1953; Edmonson Village, -- October 1953; White Avenue, NW JCT Belair Road (US Route 1); 18 October 1953, 23 and 25 February 1954; near Glen Falls Avenue and Mary Avenue, 3 March 1955; near JCT East Lombard Street (MD Route 150) and Kresson Street, 7 May 1955. With the possible exception of two of the specimens from White Avenue, all others have been discarded. Harris (1969, 1975) maps one additional locality for Baltimore in addition to those of McCauley (1945), probably one of several listed above for the extreme southwestern portion of the city.

Storeria occipitomaculata. This species is extremely rare in the Maryland piedmont, including the District of Columbia, and the few reports in the mainstream literature are ambiguous. Even where specimens exist, in some cases there is still uncertainty about which physiographic province they belong to. Hay (1902) states: "I have collected it at . . . various points along the Potomac [River] above Georgetown [District of Columbia]," but vouchers are lacking. Usually this statement has been interpreted to mean only the District of Columbia (McCauley, 1945; Cooper, 1960, 1965; Harris, 1969, 1975), but Reed (1956c) construes it to also include Montgomery County, Maryland. Actually the Hay statement may well apply to any combination of the District; Montgomery County, Maryland; Arlington County, Virginia, and Fairfax County, Virginia. Indeed, Mitchell (1994) plots four records for the piedmont of Fairfax County (two proximate to the Potomac River, none of which are based on Hay, 1902), although one of the Potomac sites is retracted in Mitchell and Reay (1999). There are no specimens supporting Hay's assertion, although the National Museum has a specimen from Montgomery County (USNM 17562, -- October 1891), but with no further locality data. I collected a juvenile (TSU 9911) near Boyds, Montgomery County on 30 March 2005, providing the first record for the county with a specific locality. Mansueti (1941a,d) was the second to report the species from the Maryland piedmont, based on a specimen (discarded) he discovered in the collection of (Baltimore) City College (High School) that was labeled " 'Catonsville' " (Mansueti 1941a), which he (1941d) later states as "Catonsville, 1928." This specimen entered the NHSM collection as 151, but has since been discarded. The NHSM files and Reed (1956c) assign this record to Baltimore County. Cooper (1960) overlooks the Mansueti report, although it is "corrected" by Harris, who states in Cooper (1965): "Catonsville, collected by Dr. Romeo Mansueti, 1941." Harris (1969, 1975) plots the site in Baltimore County. A third record for the Maryland piedmont is another discarded specimen

(NHSM 1684, 8 July 1950), miscatalogued by Mansueti as being from Catonsville, Baltimore County, and collected by E. C. Prince. In a startling comment concerning the efficacy of dumps as collecting sites for amphibians and reptiles, Prince (1961) states: "July 8, 1950. Near Catonsville, Baltimore City, Maryland. In an empty lot under trash and boards, 7 *Storeria occipitomaculata occipitomaculata* (Northern Red-bellied snake)." Prince (personal communication, 1977) informed me that his locality was a vacant lot adjacent to a streetcar storage facility on Frederick Avenue (MD Route 144). M. A. Hurley (personal communication, 2014) states that it was known as the Irvington Car House and was formerly located on the NE corner of Collins Avenue and Frederick Avenue. An additional record for Baltimore County is NHSM 628, -- May 1938, but the data are no more specific than county and it has been discarded. Another record, which may or may not be in the piedmont, is from Savage, Howard County (USNM 307781, 15 September 1945). This is a thoroughly desiccated specimen that appears to be correctly identified. Cooper (1960, 1965), in his distributional matrices, records the species from Howard County, but provides virtually no data on any of his "localities" and has thus created many problems for his successors. Cooper's inclusion of Howard County in the range of *S. occipitomaculata* is probably based on an observation by H. W. Campbell, who found an individual "on top of hill on Howard County side of Patapsco River, overlooking dam [Bloede Dam] at Glenartney, Spring 1951" (H. S. Harris, Jr., personal communication, 2005, quoting from Campbell's field notes), and is the locality plotted in Harris (1969, 1975). More ambiguity exists for Frederick County. Mansueti (1941c) reports finding a specimen (NHSM 778—discarded) along the west side of US Route 15, "Thurmont" (actually 2.5 miles S Thurmont), 27 July 1941. (Irresponsibly, he published the same article twice; see Mansueti, 1942a.) On 13 April 1983 I collected (TSU 5322) this species 0.5 mile south of the Mansueti site and under the same circumstances (under a piece of roadside cardboard) as Mansueti and his field party. This locality lies precisely at the juncture of the piedmont and the Blue Ridge Physiographic Province. The specimens would appear to be referable to the Blue Ridge since a specimen was later collected in Catoctin "State" [Mountain] Park (NHSM 595, 13 July 1946—discarded). Harris (1969, 1975) also plots a third record for the Blue Ridge of Frederick County, but its basis is not in the public domain. Mansueti (1941a), age 17, makes the bold pronouncement: "This species is very rare in Maryland as a whole." Actually *S. occipitomaculata* is common on the Allegheny Plateau (Cooper, 1966; Harris, 1969, 1975) and numerous specimens exist in collections from Garrett County, notably that of Towson University.

Thamnophis sauritus. Only two of the 12 sites listed by Mansueti (1941d) are or were documented at the time: lower Patapsco State Park, Baltimore County: Vineyard (NHSM 22, June 1936) and Orange Grove (NHSM 775, 30 June 1940—discarded). His statement that the ribbon snake "has been collected and observed at all points in the Patapsco State Park" is not borne out by the evidence; there is no documentation from the upper portion of the park (Hollofield to Oella). Mansueti lists four sites for Baltimore, but only one, Cherry Hill, has any support (Groves, 1940). Overlooked by Mansueti is: Edgewood

Arsenal, Harford County (NHSM 4, 21 March 1934—discarded). McCauley (1945) accepts Mansueti's four localities from the city, but plots a specimen record that has no basis. As usual, Harris's (1969, 1975) maps mirror McCauley's.

This is another species whose presence on the Allegheny Plateau of Maryland is highly questionable—there are no vouchers—and is the fourth of five dubious species listed by Mansueti (1958) for the Cranesville Swamp. Given the collecting that has taken place in and adjacent the swamp, it is odd that this is the only report. I also take the opportunity to reject two additional undocumented sites for Garrett County that were published by Miller (1979): one for New Germany State Park and the other for Bear Creek Rearing Station, Engle Mill. The former locality, a sighting by J. E. Cooper at the lake at New Germany State Park “likely, although not definitely, . . . sometime in 1948” (Cooper, personal communication, 1978) is best put aside until hard evidence is obtained either here or elsewhere in the county. This site is indicated in Cooper (1960, 1965) and mapped by Harris (1969, 1975). The source for the latter locality, A. W. Norden, may be unreliable; this report dates from the early 1970s. Green and Pauley (1987) map an “unverified record” for Preston County, West Virginia, which is adjacent to Garrett County, Maryland. T. K. Pauley (personal communication, 2014) is uncertain of its basis; it may or may not be Mansueti's site. An overlooked site for Preston County by Green and Pauley is CM 28127 from near Arthurdale, 29 April 1948. This is the locality plotted by Rossman (1963, 1970; D. A. Rossman, personal communication, 2014) and is 18 miles WSW Cranesville Swamp. The absence of records from the Allegheny Plateau in Pennsylvania (McCoy, 1982; Hulse et al., 2001) anywhere near Garrett County is probably significant.

Thamnophis sirtalis. McCauley (1940) lists and plots three sites for Baltimore and later (1945) maps but does not list them; however, none are based on extant specimens. Mansueti (1941d) considers the species too common to bother with. Vouchered sites for Baltimore are or were: JCT Manhattan Avenue and Park Heights Avenue (MD Route 129) (NHSM 368, 23 April 1943—discarded); Druid Hill Park (NHSM 930, 6 August 1947); St. Stanislaus Cemetery (NHSM 1100, 30 March 1946—discarded); 1107 Ridgely Street [NHSM 1616, 28 January (*sic*) 1950]; Brooklyn (NHSM 1619, 16 February 1956); JCT Frankford Avenue and Sipple Avenue (NHSM 2344, 30 August 1958); near Beechfield Avenue (NHSM 2625, 17 April 1966); Fairfield (e.g., NHSM/HSB 32, 25 March 1959; UF 41173, -- 1962); 1.0 mile S Westport (NHSM/HSB 333, 13 September 1961); near Lakeland (NHSM/HSB 1127, -- June 1975); Hanlon Park (USNM 141459, 10 May 1942). Literature records for Baltimore are: “near Fort and Andrew Streets” (apparently this should read near JCT Andre Street and East Fort Avenue) (Cohen, 1937); Western Run Parkway (J. Norman, 1939); Cherry Hill (Groves, 1940); “Bean Hill” (= North Franklinton Road, Gwynn's Falls Park) (Buxbaum, 1942) and “vicinity of Forest View Avenue . . . observed crawling out of the water of a stream [presumably Redhouse Creek],” 24 December 1946 (Cooper, 1947a). Reed (1956c) lists five sites for Baltimore: Greenhill Avenue near JCT Lasalle Avenue, 12 October 1953; Moore's Run, S Radecke Avenue, 15 May 1954; Burdick Park near Glenmore Avenue, 1 March 1955; Marluth Avenue between

Parkmont Avenue and Springwood Avenue, 4 September 1955; 4200 block Hamilton Avenue, 27 July 1956. All specimens with the possible exception of the last have been discarded. Odell (1961) records the species from West Bay Avenue, Brooklyn. Harris (1969, 1975) merely copies McCauley (1945), although in 1975 he adds a site for extreme southern Baltimore, probably either the Fairfield or Westport localities mentioned above.

Virginia valeriae. Mansueti (1941d) lists five localities (two coastal plain, two piedmont, one transitional) where this species has been “collected,” but only one, Cherry Hill (Groves, 1940), can be accounted for and there is no specimen. It would have been useful to have documentation for this overwhelmingly coastal plain taxon for the piedmont sites of “Gunpowder Falls area” (Baltimore County) and Woodstock (Howard County). Once again the lack of elucidation by Mansueti forces me to speculate. Mansueti defines “Gunpowder Falls area” in his account of *Desmognathus fuscus* as “between Harford Road [MD Route 147] and Philadelphia Road [MD Route 7].” This considerably narrows down the major stream in Baltimore County (which runs the entire length of the county for ca. 50 miles), but still remains sketchy. The report was probably provided by E. Cohen, who is listed in Mansueti's acknowledgments. McCauley (1945) lists a site provided to him by Cohen for “Gunpowder Falls,” Baltimore County, and plots it on the coastal plain near the confluence of the Gunpowder Falls and the Little Gunpowder Falls. This is slightly east of the eastern terminus of Mansueti's definition of the “Gunpowder Falls area.” Why McCauley would map a specific locality and list it vaguely remains a mystery. McCauley plots the site as a specimen examined (solid circle), but no specimen exists and was part of Cohen's collection (some of it living, some of it preserved) when McCauley saw it (E. Cohen, personal communication, 1986).

Mansueti's Woodstock locality also cannot be taken literally. This report was probably provided to Mansueti by W. H. McClellan (another contributor listed in Mansueti's acknowledgments) of the former Woodstock College, which was located in Baltimore County. Reinforcing this belief is a locality listed and plotted by McCauley (1945) from “nr. Woodstock,” Baltimore County, courtesy of McClellan. An overlooked piedmont site by Mansueti is: Loch Raven, Baltimore County (NHSM 115, -- November 1939). Further notes on this specimen were provided by C. H. Kolb (personal communication, 1979), who quotes from his journal: “It was collected on November 12, 1939 at the tip of the peninsula between Kelly and Spring Branches.” Sites for Baltimore in addition to Cherry Hill are: Brooklyn (NHSM uncatalogued, 21 May 1953; this is the same individual mentioned by Reed, 1956c); West Bay Avenue near JCT Church Street (NHSM/HSB 39, 60, 9 May 1959); Federal Hill Park (NHSM/HSB 169, 4 April 1960—discarded) and Curtis Bay (NHSM 2626-2629, -- May 1955; NHSM/HSB 677, 29 September 1966; UF 29271, 29273-29275, 16 April 1962). Odell (1961) also lists the species from West Bay Avenue, Brooklyn. Harris's (1969, 1975) maps for Baltimore are identical to McCauley's (1945).

Viperidae

Agkistrodon contortrix. The distribution of this species in

Maryland is complex and worthy of a note in itself, due largely to the complaint that runs through this article—an abundance of hearsay and a shortage of documentation. The problems begin with Hopkins (1890), who, under “Distribution,” states: “Prof. P. R. Uhler, informs me that the Maryland Academy of Sciences has had specimens from the valley of the Potomac river [*sic*] above the chain bridge; also from the country adjoining Martinsburg and Harper’s Ferry . . .” Probably due to a desperation for locality records (Miller, 2009), McCauley (1945) chose to assign Chain Bridge, which lies in the District of Columbia, and Harper’s Ferry, which lies in West Virginia, to Maryland and maps them accordingly. Hopkins further states: “The species was formerly not rare on the head-waters of Gwynn’s Falls, in the vicinity of Pikesville [Baltimore County] . . .” Under the subject of “Color,” Hopkins makes an offhand reference to an “adult specimen examined at New Market . . .” Apparently this refers to New Market, Frederick County, in or near where Hopkins lived. Hopkins provides no documentation for the former statement, and both sites, which lie in the piedmont, are atypical, having little relief and little woodland. (Hopkins himself states that the Gwynn’s Falls site possesses “thin woods.”) McCauley (1945) accepts the Pikesville report, but overlooks or ignores the one from New Market. Hopkins also does not state the basis for the sites of “summit of South Mountain, near Boonsboro, Md.” and “south of Snow Hill, in Worcester County, Md.,” although subsequent field work would demonstrate the occurrence of copperheads in the former area (TSU 7091, 9 October 1984), as well as the latter (McCauley, 1945). Hopkins’ localities for “below Parkton, and near White Hall, in Baltimore County” are given in some detail and I have no problems with them; the area is rugged, rocky and formerly remote. On 10 June 1977 I observed an individual ca. 0.5 mile SE Parkton along the defunct Penn-Central Railroad (the “Northern Central railroad” of Hopkins; this later became the Northern Central Railroad Trail and is currently known as the Torrey C. Brown Trail). Under “Habits” Hopkins relates a field trip to “Piscataway creek [*sic*], back of Fort Washington” (Prince George’s County) taken “Last August” (1889?) under “oppressively warm” conditions. Eventually he comes to the point: “I discovered within a few inches of his hand three beautiful Copperheads [all gravid females] coiled together upon the log.” Although *A. contortrix* is known from Fort Washington (USNM 139612, summer 1945; USNM 139613-139614, 13 August 1946), this is indeed fanciful stuff and casts further suspicion on the reliability of much of what Hopkins says. He goes on to add, without any substantiation: “they [*Agkistrodon contortrix*] are often brought down the Potomac river [*sic*] on driftwood from points many miles above the place where we found these specimens . . .”

Mansueti (1941d) lists 13 localities (one of which, “Gunpowder Falls area from Loch Raven to Philadelphia Road [MD Route 7],” is quite broad), but only two, Patapsco State Park (numerous extant and discarded NHSM specimens) and “near Loch Raven” (NHSM 34, -- July 1935) were documented at the time. Mansueti lists four sites for the coastal plain, three in Anne Arundel County and one in Baltimore County. There was no support at the time for Crownsville, Lake Shore, and near Shore Acres along the Magothy River (Anne Arundel County), although Lake Shore would be documented later (NHSM 2660,

30 October 1955). However, neither of Mansueti’s unvouchered sites in Anne Arundel County is implausible and copperheads are much more evenly distributed in southern Maryland than in the piedmont. Mansueti’s Middle River site is the only report for the coastal plain of Baltimore County and I view it as quite dubious. All documented sites from Baltimore County are from rugged and well-wooded terrain. Mansueti’s listing of Glyndon and Texas (Baltimore County) and Elkridge (Howard County) are also extremely doubtful. With the Woodstock (Howard County) site we find the same problem that is discussed under *Virginia valeriae*. Mansueti’s “near Granite” (Baltimore County) locality is probably not distinguishable from his Woodstock site and lies in suitable habitat (along the Patapsco River). His Reisterstown (Baltimore County) locality, per se, is also unconvincing, although there are specimens from “near Reisterstown” (NHSM 1014-1015, 8 or 9 July 1947). The nearest suitable habitat is 3.0 miles W Reisterstown along North Branch Patapsco River, most of which is now impounded by Liberty Reservoir.

The sole report from Baltimore also stems from Mansueti (1941d) who states: “In Baltimore City, one specimen was killed near St. Mary’s Seminary by a boy interested in snakes.” The record was accepted without reservation by McCauley (1945) and Harris (1969, 1975). As usual, Mansueti provides no specifics. We are left to wonder precisely where and under what circumstances the snake was found, the suitability of the habitat (there appears to be none), the date of collection, whether this was someone Mansueti knew and, if so, who, or whether it was a personal communication from someone else and, again, who provided it. The loose use of the word “specimen” is also unfortunate since there is no record of one. It should also be noted that the locality St. Mary’s Seminary appears at least three times in the files of the NHSM and three times in Mansueti (1941d). In two cases, listed in Miller (2015) under *Ambystoma maculatum* and *Pseudacris crucifer*, it is erroneous; St. Mary’s Cemetery is the correct name. Without irony, Mansueti (1941d) concludes his Remarks with the following: “It [*Agkistrodon contortrix*] has been reported by people in the more rugged portions of Gwynns Falls Park, Curtis Bay, Herring Run Park, and Hillsdale Park [all located in Baltimore City], but these records need confirmation.”

Some inadvertent comedy concerning this species appears in Mansueti (1942b). Under his account of *Carphophis amoenus*, he states: “On June 2, 1940, while Mr. Robertson and I were looking at two Copperheads, which were basking on a rotted stump . . .” Three pages later, in his account of *Agkistrodon contortrix*, Mansueti states: “Unfortunately, I was not with Mr. Robertson when he saw and tried to capture two specimens of this form, which were lying on top of a tree stump . . .”

McCauley (1945) states: “The copperhead undoubtedly occurred at one time throughout the state. Constant slaughter and extensive cultivation have caused it to become very rare in certain counties . . . In eastern and southern Maryland the copperhead is much less common [than in upland areas]. It is unable to find natural hibernating stations like those further west . . .” Serious herpetology in Maryland was still in its infancy in McCauley’s time, and based on his rather limited field work during the summers of 1936, 1937 and 1938 (not 1937,

1938 and 1939, as stated by McCauley on page 1; some field work was done in the spring of 1939) it is difficult to understand these assertions. Subsequent field work would show that this species is common in portions of southern Maryland, while its absence on much of the Delmarva Peninsula is almost certainly due to natural factors. Several species are conspicuously absent from large areas of central Delmarva, *Bufo americanus* being the best example (Conant, 1958; Conant, 1975; Harris, 1975; Gloyd and Conant, 1990; Conant and Collins, 1991). Furthermore, the spring, not the summer, is the best time to be searching for reptiles in Maryland.

Mansueti (1947, 1956) makes some strange statements about this species' distribution in Maryland, particularly in light of his familiarity with McCauley's book on the reptiles of the state (Mansueti 1945, 1947). In his publication from 1947 he states: "Two poisonous snakes inhabit Maryland—the copperhead and rattlesnake. The latter is restricted to the mountains of Western Maryland, while the former is commonly distributed over all of Maryland—in the mountains, on the Piedmont Plateau, and to a lesser degree on the Coastal Plain." First, by 1947 the copperhead's documented distribution in the Maryland piedmont was limited to short stretches along the Gunpowder Falls and the Patapsco River, Baltimore County, one site probably along North Branch Patapsco River (mentioned above), Baltimore County, and one site along South Branch Patapsco River, between Henryton and Sykesville, Carroll County (NHSM 740, 13 October 1946). At the time no piedmont localities were vouchered for Frederick County, Harford County or Howard County, and only one site in Cecil County was documented (McCauley, 1945). (Although McCauley plots two localities for Cecil County, Rising Sun is one of his many sites based on specimens in high school collections. For reasons stated below, it is highly questionable.) Its distribution in Montgomery County was limited to suitable places along and near the Potomac River (McCauley, 1945). In 1956 Mansueti once again asserts that "the copperhead is commonly found throughout the state . . ." Later in the same article he claims that "Its occurrence on the low, flat Eastern Shore is less well-documented, nevertheless records are available for every county." He proceeds to map the species as occurring throughout Maryland (except for portions of Dorchester and Somerset Counties) and the District of Columbia. Given Mansueti's familiarity with McCauley (1945) one wonders how these assertions could occur. McCauley had no records for the Eastern Shore counties of Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset and Talbot Counties, and nothing for the Eastern Shore portion of Cecil County. Twenty-four years after McCauley (1945), Harris (1969) had nothing for these areas either, with the exceptions of two undocumented sites for Dorchester County, which he considers dubious, and one locality for Somerset County, the source of which appears to be a personal communication from H. W. Campbell to Harris for Beverly Farms, 4.0 miles S Princess Anne, 10 August 1951 (Campbell, 1961, a reference Harris is not aware of). Campbell states that the specimen was deposited in the Baltimore Zoo collection, but there is no evidence that it was preserved. Harris (1975) adds a second locality for Somerset County, apparently Deal Island Wildlife Management Area, but like so many "records" in his distributional surveys, its source is

not in the public domain. Dawson (1979) provides a second specific locality for Somerset County for an individual of near record length for the state "found dead on Dublin Road near the Wellington Wildlife Management Area, Princess Anne [locality is ca. 5.0 miles SE Princess Anne] . . .," 3 August 1978. According to Dawson the snake was retained by the Maryland Wildlife Administration—quite possibly an unprecedented act—but when I attempted to acquire it for the TSU collection was told that its whereabouts were unknown (S. A. Dawson, personal communication, 1979 or 1980). The only specimen known from Somerset County is TSU 38 from Oriole, -- September 1978, and it is not until 38 years after Mansueti (1956) that the species is reliably reported from Dorchester County (Grogan, 1994). However, of the two specimens that Grogan reports seeing in the Elmer E. Mowbray collection (formerly housed at Horn Point Laboratory; now at the NHSM) only the one from Henry's Crossroads, 20 July 1975, can be accounted for.

Although McCauley (1945) maps only four records for the Eastern Shore, and Gloyd and Conant (1990) plot only three, there is a surprising amount of carelessness. McCauley maps a site that is roughly 10 miles NW Snow Hill, Worcester County; however, he lists the locality as 10 miles NE Snow Hill (formerly RHM S328; now USNM 107875, 17 June 1938). As far as can be determined, the stated locality is the correct one (S. W. Gotte, personal communication, 2014). McCauley's mapping of Snow Hill and Salisbury, Wicomico County are merely based on specimens in high school collections, none of which are extant (Miller, 2009). Due to a desperation for locality records, McCauley does this repeatedly throughout his book. Given the ephemeral nature of such collections, it is mystifying that McCauley thought they were on the same footing with museum repositories. He also makes the unjustified assumption that all such specimens were necessarily collected in the immediate vicinity of the school in question. Of Gloyd and Conant's three mapped sites, one, in extreme south-central Worcester County has no basis. The authors also map an intergrade specimen for Anne Arundel County, but it is not accounted for in the text. Cooper (1956), who is cited by Gloyd and Conant, states: "None of the specimens seen by the writer [from Anne Arundel County] exhibit characteristics of the southern subspecies *contortrix*." Gloyd and Conant cite 23 private collections from which they examined specimens; one is described as "presumably lost," another as "whereabouts unknown," and a third "probably no longer extant." A fourth may be added to this list, at least in part, the collection of Michael Francis Groves (MFG). The authors state that this collection has been deposited in the NHSM, but there is no accounting for the two specimens they cite: MFG 26 (Patapsco State Forest Reserve, Baltimore County) and MFG 79 (Briarcliff-on-Severn, Arnold, Anne Arundel County). MFG 79 is also cited by Cooper (1956), who lists the site of collection as "Chase Creek nr. Briarcliff." Another specimen Gloyd and Conant cite, NHSM 812, 1.0 mile SE Orange Grove, (Patapsco State Park), Baltimore County, 12 April 1947, has been discarded. For no discernible reason, Gloyd and Conant invent their own abbreviation for the Natural History Society of Maryland—"MNHS"—even though NHSM was established in the literature by the 1950s and was first used by Cooper (1948b). McCauley (1945) also uses "MNHS," and unaccountably calls the NHSM,

established in 1929, “Maryland Natural History Society,” although Gloyd and Conant call it by its correct name.

W. L. Grogan, Jr. (personal communication, 2014) has observed the species at the following localities in Wicomico County: (1) Rushmore Drive (DOR), Sierra Manor, a residential area bounded by Old Ocean City Road (MD Route 346), Walston Switch Road and Beaverdam Creek, Walston, ca. 1985; (2) Walston Switch Road (DOR), JCT Beaver Dam Creek, Walston, ca. 1995; (3) Camden Avenue (two DORs), Fruitland, unknown dates during the 1990s; (4) Kilbirnie Estates, a residential area located at the NE JCT Mount Hermon Road (MD Route 350) and Walston Switch Road, ESE Salisbury, late September 2006. Grogan also informs me that his son, C. B. Grogan, has observed the species in Wicomico County at the following localities: (1) along Fooks Road and/or Twilley’s Bridge Road, in the immediate vicinity of the SE end of the Salisbury-Ocean City: Wicomico Regional Airport, several occasions during the 1980s; (2) JCT US Route 50 and Sixty Foot Road, SE corner, ca. 1.0 mile SSW Pittsville, several individuals under debris, ca. May 1991; (3) just S Old Ocean City Road (MD Route 346), just W Walston Switch Road and above the N bank of Beaver Dam Creek, Walston, four adults under a board, ca. May 1991. In addition, Grogan reports that S. Mach found copperheads in the immediate vicinity of JCT Twilley’s Bridge Road and Nassawango Creek, dates not available.

In Gloyd and Conant (1990), Conant solicits the opinion of H. S. Harris, Jr., on copperhead distribution in Maryland. Conant does not state when Harris proffered his comments, but his first two sentences read: “In Maryland the copperhead is still very abundant. Only old records exist for Baltimore City, but this snake is common NE, N, NW, W, and SW of the city mainly in the drainage areas of the Gunpowder and Patapsco rivers.” As has just been noted, there is only one “record” for Baltimore, and it is highly suspect. I take issue with Harris’s phrase “very abundant,” which I would not apply to any amphibian or reptile in the state. Of course, some species under certain circumstances, such as frog choruses, may be temporarily abundant, but “very abundant” when applied to a reptile is just hyperbole. Also, having seen only four copperheads (three in Baltimore County, one in Prince George’s County) in roughly 700 field trips throughout the Maryland piedmont and the adjacent coastal plain counties of Anne Arundel and Prince George’s over the past 40 years, I do not consider this snake to be even common, let alone “very abundant.” I hasten to add that I have not made any trips specifically for this species, such as to denning areas (applicable only in the piedmont) where concentrations might be encountered. If this species were truly “very abundant,” I think my success would have been much greater. It is also not clear what the basis is for Harris’s comments concerning Baltimore area distribution. There is no evidence that he has done any field work in the Maryland piedmont since the early 1960s, when he, like many before and after him, was still needlessly collecting copperheads, among other species, in Patapsco State Park. Editorials by Roeder (1966) and Saul (1966), specifically targeting herpetological abuse in Patapsco State Park, were published about 15 years too late.

Like the copperhead’s distribution in the piedmont, its distribution on the Allegheny Plateau (extreme western Allegany

County and all of Garrett County) is not uniform and has been further muddled by unvouchered reports and plotted localities that have no basis in the public domain. It is uncertain whether this species has been previously recorded from the Allegheny Plateau of Allegany County. Harris (1969, 1975) may or may not have mapped a site from Dan’s Mountain. There appear to be no museum or literature records supporting it. Copperheads have been documented from only two sites in Garrett County: Savage River Road, 3.4 miles W JCT MD Route 135 (NHSM 1700, 18 August 1967) and East Vindex (USNM 194372, 18 June 1972). These two sites are ca. 7.0 miles apart. Harris (1969, 1975) overlooks the NHSM specimen even though Franz (1968) reports it in Harris’s own privately controlled journal; the USNM specimen is also overlooked by Harris (1975). Gloyd and Conant (1990) were also not aware of these specimens, although Franz (1968) is cited and they were well aware of the NHSM and USNM collections. The copperhead is first reported from Garrett County by Keim (1914), who lists the species from Jennings. Keim reports 15 species, 13 of which are or were vouchered in the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. The only exceptions are *Pseudacris crucifer* (common in Garrett County) and *A. contortrix*. This report is the only one McCauley (1945) had for the region and he accepts it. Harris (1969) replots McCauley and adds two localities to the northwest of Jennings, and later (1975) maps a fourth, forming a continuous string. These three sites also have no documentation. Mansueti (1956, 1958) reports two sites for the copperhead in Garrett County: “Cranberry Bog” (Cranberry Swamp; better known to naturalists as Finzel Swamp) and “Cranesville Pine Swamp” (technically Pine Swamp; better known to naturalists as Cranesville Swamp). Harris (1969, 1975) is not aware of Mansueti (1958), although he (1975) “cites” Mansueti (1956). Gloyd and Conant (1990) do not cite either reference. In light of Mansueti’s track record, it is appropriate to question both of the localities he reports. E. L. Thompson, who lived next to Finzel Swamp from 1985–1994, does not believe the species occurs there or at any of the other high-elevation swamps in Garrett County, which would also include Cranesville Swamp. On the other hand, one is confronted by the following statement in Mansueti (1958): “Approaching the tamarack grove from the West Virginia side, Dr. Flyger and I were impressed by the very long pine slat road constructed to allow logging trucks to traverse the swamp. Under the flat boards we found copperheads, milksnakes [*sic*], garter snakes, water snakes and a ribbon snake.” It is difficult to refute Mansueti’s assertion, except to note that *Agkistrodon contortrix* is the fifth of five species (see *Rana catesbeiana*—Miller, 2015) that he and he alone has found in Cranesville Swamp, and, of course, a lifelong proclivity for making strange or unsupported statements.

E. L. Thompson has observed *Agkistrodon contortrix* on the Allegheny Plateau of Maryland at the following localities: (1) slope opposite Savage River Reservoir Dam, early 1980s; (2) along Youghiogheny River, ca. 0.5 mile S confluence Trap Run, -- August 1996; (3) entrance road to Jennings Randolph Lake, -- July 2010; (4) N Borden Tunnel, Allegheny Highlands Trail, -- July/August 2010 and 2012. The first three sites are in Garrett County, the last in Allegany County. Thompson believes that copperheads may occur anywhere on the plateau possessing suitable habitat below ca. 2000 feet.

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Seeking Cool

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On the evening of 5 September, 2015, I was with a group of 12 students from Bangor University, Wales (UK), who were under the generalship of Dr. Wolfgang Wüster. We were at Iron Mine Hill, the study plot that this author has discussed before. As this was a training exercise in radio telemetry techniques, one of the students was doing the tracking. Our target was a young adult female Black-tailed Rattlesnake, *Crotalus molossus*, number 24, or Cm24 for short. After several forevers, the kid doing the tracking pinpointed Cm24. At the point where we had our first look at her, we were on top of a fairly steep rock shelf, looking down.

My first glimpse afforded me a look at Cm24 barreling down a near-vertical rock slab, heading for an opening in a boulder beneath her, and slightly to her right. Just as she was about to enter the opening, her head cocked into an S, and she launched a strike into the hole. I had a perfect view of the strike connecting with the scruff of the neck of a moderate-sized Packrat (*Neotoma albigula*). Whop! Take that, vermin! Death from above! At that instant, one of the students said “It just bit that rat!” I was really glad she said that, because it happened so fast that it was still registering in my brain. My response to her was “You got that right! Woohoo!” Just after fangs met flesh, the rat did a couple flips, and then lay on the ground in front of the opening, shaking like a whore in church. A few seconds later, the quivering stopped—just like that! One second, it was a happy little verminous fur ball, the next, it was deader than a mackerel. It was at this point that the stragglers began to filter uphill, with Wolfgang leading the charge. I told Wolfgang what had just happened, and directed him to the spot where the rat was lying. He set up for some photos of what might happen next. The remaining students formed a semicircle to either side of him, while those above on the ledge with me also snagged favorable angles. The only one without a fighting chance at a photo was me.

And so now, we’ve got a dead rat on the ground, a Black-tailed Rattlesnake buried in a rock burrow, and half the city of Bangor lighting up the place like a Friday night high school football game in Texas (Figure 1). I’ve seen nuclear blasts throw off less lumens. There was absolutely no way that snake was going to come out to eat that rat with this kind of flandickery going on!

But to my amazement, Cm24 slowly eased out of the burrow and headed for the rat, sniffed it up and down a while, and then proceeded to engulf the head. As the cameras were whirring, I began to realize the situation. It is familiar territory for me. No good deed ever goes unpunished, and nice guys always finish last. I have invested everything the past 15 years to make this moment possible, and will be denied the opportunity to photograph it. Since I was helpless to do anything else, I started taking the data. Given the circumstances, this was the best thing to do, and thankfully, Wolfgang came through with his images. (Even when led by the hand to the Promised Land, herptographers who share their handiwork are not always a given).

We know that at precisely 2118 hours, Cm24 nailed that rat. She knew that rat was there, and jetted briskly down that boulder to deliver the blow. This was no ambush, this was runnin’ and gunnin’! I don’t know exactly how long it took the rat to die. It is my guess that it was less than a minute, maybe even a few seconds. I do know that by 2125, seven minutes after the bite, the snake had the rat’s head completely engulfed. And by 2150, 32 minutes post-envenomation, the rat was down the hatch. We thank Dr. Wüster for the images of this very cool event in Figure 2.

Throughout the decade of the 1990s, a favored herping spot of mine was a place that I call “The ’Winder Spot.” The area was named this simply because it contains a good population of Sidewinders (*Crotalus cerastes*). As the place is located at the extreme eastern edge of their range, the plant associations are radically different from the sand dunes that might come to mind when thinking about them. On their turf in Southern Pinal County, Arizona, the Saguaros are numerous, and stand tall and mighty. Massive Ironwood trees, some over 10 meters tall, flank the washes. On the flats between the washes, the Chain-fruit Cholla also reach massive heights, some of these tower three meters above the landscape. The Creosote also reaches mammoth proportions here, and each and every one of these has a base that is peppered with the holes of various rodents. About the only thing that the habitat has in common with the strongholds of the Sidewinders further west is the sandy soil.

My favorite trick for finding Sidewinders was to walk some of the mini-washes that cut through the flats here, and look for their tracks. The sandy soil reveals everything that has crossed it for the past 24 hours. Once the tracks are found, one knows that one is very close to the animal. It is very rare that one can follow the tracks to the snake itself, but one knows that somewhere in the vicinity, the quarry is lurking. So, I would walk these washes by day in order to locate the tracks, and then return at night to see if I could find the animals up.



Figure 1. No room for Roger! Twelve students from Bangor University and their professor, Dr. Wolfgang Wüster, photographing something cool. 5 September 2015. Image by the author.



Figure 2. Sequence of a Black-tailed Rattlesnake (*Crotalus molossus*) devouring a White-throated Woodrat (AKA Packrat, *Neotoma albigula*). See text for details. Images by Wolfgang Wüster.

On 16 April 1995, I was hiking down a favored wash in the vicinity. The winter/spring rains had been generous that year, and along with all the flowering annuals that came up as a result, a dense crop of foxtail grasses blanketed everything but the wash bottoms and edges. At precisely 1530 hours, a Merriam's Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys merriami*) appeared from the depths of these foxtails, ran straight at me, and stopped less than an inch from my right foot. It whirled, faced the direction that I had been going, and gazed intently down the wash at something that I had not yet detected. We pause in the narrative here for long enough to say that Kangaroo Rats are strictly nocturnal when surface active. Out of many thousands of hours of day hiking in Arizona, this is the only time that I have seen one out and about. And to have one run up to me and almost sit on my hiking boot was highly irregular. My camera hung at its usual place off my belt, and I wanted very much to go for it, and make a picture of it. "Hey everybody! Here is a crappy picture of a diurnally active K-rat hunkered down by my right hiking boot. Wow-huh?" But restraint stayed my hand. I feared the motion it would take to pull the camera out, coupled with the sound of zipper of my camera case being ripped open, would spoil whatever might happen next. I remained quiet and motionless, while trying to spy what the K-rat might be so interested in. A few seconds later, I had it!

A Western Patch-nosed Snake (*Salvadora hexalepis*), roughly 75 cm (30 inches) in length was sprawled on the north berm of the mini-wash, roughly ten meters away. It had something in its mouth. Just as I was focusing on what the prey item might be, the K-Rat suddenly darted forward, and bit the snake, the bite landing roughly mid-flank. The snake reacted to the attack by raising the rear half of its body and slapping at the K-Rat with its tail, not unlike the action created by a bullwhip. But the snake was a split second too slow with its efforts to smack that K-Rat upside the head. As soon as the K-Rat landed the bite, it darted back to the safe zone of my right foot. It was then noted that the prey item in the snake's mouth was a fuzzy hopper K-Rat. The prey item was roughly 40 mm (~1.5 inches) long, and was broadside in the snake's jowls. The snake was frantically trying to jaw walk toward the head of the hopper, in order to choke it down.

For the next ten minutes, the same scenario as just described happened again and again and again! My field notes indicate that at least 20 times, the K-Rat charged, bit the snake, each time narrowly missing the whipping action of the snake's tail, and each time returning to the exact same spot by my foot. Each

attack drove the snake a little further away from us, until such time as the snake disappeared into the tall foxtails at the base of a Creosote. But I knew the snake was still there, because as the K-Rat rushed into the thicket, the tail could be seen whipping above the grass. It was downright comical to see that tail rise above the grass, and to witness the rat come barreling back out. The observation ended when what we can assume was a very protective mother dashed into the thicket, and did not come back out. I waited motionless for five minutes, and then cautiously approached. Neither the K-Rat nor the snake was visible. One of the many small holes peppering the base of the Creosote appeared freshly utilized, indicating that the battle had gone underground. My speculation at the time was that the snake had finished off the hopper, and went under for more—with mama right behind it. One can only imagine the carnage that was developing underground. At times, there is no such thing as a free lunch for snakes, either.

Roughly 35 miles to the northwest of Tucson stands a jagged and prominent eminence that carries the name of Ragged Top. There was a time when the area was the best-kept secret in all of Southern Arizona. As one who wanted it to stay unknown, whenever I would write about the copious amount of herps being found there, I invented a name for it. That name was "Mount Badass," given for its propensity to fling even the most sure-footed field herper into the most menacing Teddy-Bear Cholla plants in the world. Seldom did we go there without somebody taking a beating of some sort. The slopes are steep, and gaily decorated with loose shale scree. At a tender young age, my son Tim dubbed this scree "slippery land." Once one started to slide down slippery land, the only thing to stop one's rapid descent were the most ornery jumping cholla forests on the planet. The choice of one rapidly descending the painful toboggan run was simple: Grab a handful of the most pernicious shrubbery possible, (similar to grabbing a porcupine—only more painful), or be hurtled off a steep cliff face and be broken to pieces at the bottom.

But there is no longer any need to hide Ragged Top with any sort of moniker. Just after the turn of the century, the place was designated as part of a National Monument. Following that, every local hack nature writer, naturalist or wannabe photographer stepped up to the feeding trough of every major wildlife publication in Arizona and beyond to run feature articles about it. It just ain't the same any more.

Buried at the base of the ramparts of the impressive 1500-

foot-tall craggy and jagged monolith runs a tight arroyo that, due to its propensity to produce turkey-shoot conditions for herps during the hottest months of the year, has earned the name of Summer Canyon. The canyon starts out as a fairly wide and flat draw, but tightens as one works their way up. The embankments that line either side of Summer Canyon are composed mainly of hard caliche, and are pockmarked with clefts and deep running holes. Many of these mini-caves are stuffed full of Packrat detritus, while others are nothing but shallow clefts (Figure 3). The canyon is at most 200 meters long, but within the framework of said 200 meters, prodigious numbers of Sonoran Desert Tortoises (*Gopherus morafkai*), Gila Monsters (*Heloderma suspectum*), Gophersnakes (*Pituophis catenifer*), Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus atrox*) and Black-tailed Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus molossus*) can be found by slowly moving up the arroyo and peering into the holes.

During the early evening of 6 August 1995, I was slowly working my way up Summer Canyon. It was miserably hot and humid; sweat was flowing out of every pore and drenching the ground behind me. No doubt, the Bighorn Sheep that inhabit the area had a good, albeit toxic, salt lick for years to follow as a result. These days, I would not even consider going here under such ridiculously hot conditions. At the time, I was wondering how anything could survive this place. It was burning hot, stinking hot, and despite the glory of the place I was in, I began to hate life.

Such was the effect of the heat on the mood of the herper. Hating life. But it soon began apparent that the herper wasn't the only one hating life. When I first started up the defile, I gradually became aware of a gruff, barking-like noise coming from somewhere well up the draw from me. As I drew closer to the source of the noise, it got ever louder. Eventually I could make it out: "Gronk! Gronk! Gronk!" Then there would be silence for a few seconds, followed by some grating noises, and then "Gronk! Gronk! Gronk!" More grating noises. Something was vocalizing, and scraping against boulders while doing it. For fully 15 minutes, the gronking and scraping continued. I eventually zeroed in on where the sound was coming from and went for it. I scrambled up a side embankment, ducked below an overhanging rock shelf, and peered into a wide-open but shallow cleft.



Figure 3. A small section of Summer Canyon, highlighting the superb habitat it contains. The entire 200-meter length of the arroyo is infested with such surroundings. Image by the author.

"Gronk! Gronk! Gronk!" Croaked the very large (~30 cm / 12 inch MCL) male tortoise to the Black-tailed Rattlesnake. My first look at it all revealed the rear carapace of the tortoise facing me, and that tortoise was compressing the one meter long adult rattlesnake against the steep back wall of the cleft. Even as I watched, the tortoise continued to vocalize his displeasure, and continued to grind against the rattlesnake. At times, the tortoise would back up a few inches, and lunge forward like a battering ram. At times, he just sort of rocked back and forth on his heels, Bam! Bam! Jab! Jab! "Gronk! Gronk! Gronk! I hate you. Get out of here!" At one point, the tortoise gave a mighty surge, and had that rattlesnake pinned in coiled fashion against the near-vertical rear face of the embankment. That snake was sideways, and the only thing keeping it from falling off the wall was that tortoise grinding him against it. And the snake just took it! He never once rattled, did not hiss, did not bite or ever once offer any form of resistance. It was almost as if he were thinking "Ho-hum. You are the potter, I am the clay. Bend me, shape me, any way you want me. Meanwhile—I like it here, and I ain't leaving."

I watched the battle for about five minutes. There was not a breath of breeze. It was probably well over 100 degrees inside that miserable west-facing oven, and the sweat just gathered in pools around me. And a killer migraine headache began to develop. I began to hate life again—especially that stupid wuss of a snake. Inwardly, I was shouting "C'mon you pussy! Give that stupid herp cow a blast of hot soup in the face, would you? He can't treat you like that!" But the snake continued with his defense of indifference. Finally, just to create a breeze for myself, it was time to start moving again. I snapped two awful pictures of the event before I did (Figure 4). I'm convinced that the tortoise never knew I was there. As there were times that the snake was looking right at me, he had to know of my presence. As I continued up Summer Canyon, I could hear the tortoise still cussing and scraping, and they were still at it an hour later when I came back down.

Just two short months ago, it was my pleasure to be in the company of a group of 7 who call ourselves "The Big Windies." For the past five years, we have gathered on an annual basis in various locations to herp and have other lesser forms of fun. Last September, we rented a couple cabins near Portal, Arizona.



Figure 4. GOMO (*Gopherus morafkai*) versus CRMO (*Crotalus molossus*) in a territorial spat over a patch of ground. The tortoise wants that snake out of there! See text for details. Image by the author.

While we were all lounging about in the shade of our rented porch, Ralph Shepstone asked the question “What is the coolest herp behavior that you’ve ever seen in the field?” We all agreed that this was a great question. But as the answers began to emerge from the group, my mental computer morphed into the blue screen of death. Perhaps I was trying too hard to think of which cool observation was the coolest. Even after much reflection, I still can’t find that “Ah-Ha” event that is over the top. When it comes to singling one out, I am helpless.

This author considers the three observations just relayed unusual enough to call them “cool.” It is never wise to put anything in the context of “this has never been documented before.” As soon as one says something like that, or worse yet, puts it in print, some joker is going to come along and say “Bah—I see that all the time.” (Gawd do I ever hate it when people do that).

With the first observation, I can’t say that nobody has ever witnessed a full up predation event with a rattlesnake, from bite to last swallow, in the wild. What I can say is that in the 14.5 years that we have been radio-tracking rattlesnakes, we have never been blessed to see it. Add to this the aspect that the rattlesnake used the run and gun to obtain her meal, as opposed to the traditional coil, wait and ambush, and well . . . that’s really cool. With the second observation, the fact that a Patch-nosed Snake was even eating a hopper Kangaroo Rat is news to even the wisest of the local snake aficionados. We don’t know much about the *Salvadora* clade. Add the protective mother element to the event, as well as the efforts of the snake to use its tail as a weapon, and we have something else cool. As for the tortoise and the rattlesnake battle, the very fact that the tortoise was vocalizing is a surprise to most experts. In Arizona, and espe-

cially California, tortoises are the big-money study herp. Many people who have made careers out of studying them have never even heard of a tortoise speaking, let alone witnessed it. Add the element of a rattlesnake that refuses to be evicted from what was likely a male tortoise’s love nest, and we once again have something cool.

This author has been passionately field herping in Arizona for over 27 years. Over that time span, I have averaged roughly 800 hours a year in the wilds of this state. This is the equivalent of working a full time job, 40 hours per week, for ten years. While the simple act of finding whatever herps inhabit the places I go is always thrilling and fun, that is not the driving force. It is the hope that I will see and document something unusual--maybe something that nobody has ever seen before. In short, I’m perennially seeking cool.

Ralph’s question has inspired me to go deep in my notes. What is the coolest herp behavior that I’ve ever seen in the field? I have started a list. The three events that were just relayed are by no means the coolest things I’ve ever seen in the field. One of them might make the top five. At this point, I am uncertain if there is any observation that is the coolest of the bunch. Perhaps in recounting some of these events, the coolest of the cool will come to light? But it may be that the ultimate in cool is yet to come—perhaps around the next wash bend?

Meanwhile, how about you, dear reader? What is the coolest herp behavior that you have ever seen? I’d love to hear from you! Until then:

This here is Roger Repp, signing off from Southern Arizona, where the turtles are strong, the snakes are handsome, and the lizards are all above average.

ReptileFest 2016 will happen on April 9 & 10

New location: Northeastern Illinois University

You know you missed it. Be there!

What You Missed at the October Meeting

John Archer
j-archer@sbcglobal.net

So my daughter is going through vet school. I'm pretty proud of that, but even better, she's involved with research studying box turtles in the wild. She frequently talked about the field trips involved and she continually praised the professor conducting the research. I expressed an interest in the fieldwork (duh), and one day she came home and said the professor, Dr. Matt Allender, had invited me to accompany the group on a research field trip. After a few scheduling conflicts I found myself joining my daughter, a dozen or so other students, the professor, a dog handler, and four dogs.

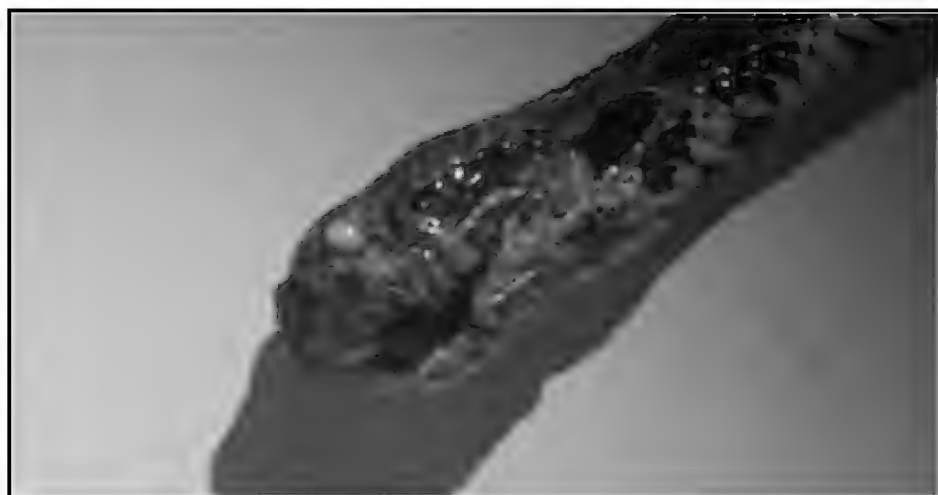


Dr. Matt Allender in the field with an alligator snapping turtle.

Matt Allender is a veterinarian who teaches at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has both a master's and a doctoral degree and is board certified in zoo and wildlife medicine. He's been studying diseases of box turtles in the wild for years, acquiring lots of data toward his stated goal of "Saving the world, one box turtle at a time." One has to like someone who describes his life work like that. Meeting and observing him working was a joy. He is as accomplished in the field as he is in the lab and he deals with his students with an understanding and competency that we wish all of our instructors had. Soon after meeting him I was asking if he would present to your society and being the nice guy that he is, he accepted in spite of his full calendar. At the October meeting he presented "Integrating Ecology and Health for Wildlife Herp Conservation."

He opened with an introduction to the concept of "One Health," the fact that human and public health, wildlife and ecosystem health, and domestic animal health are inextricably linked. Our environment is degrading, evidenced by the huge percentage of animal and plant species facing the threat of disappearance—what many have labeled the sixth extinction. We're losing species at a rate 100–1000 times faster than before humans existed, including nearly a third of amphibian species and a fifth of reptile species.

Humans are the primary cause of most of those threats, and



A massasauga infected with snake fungal disease is barely identifiable. Photograph by Matt Allender.

our population growth and expansion into their territories, along with a dozen or so other human activities such as pollution and global warming, are the drivers of the devastation going on in our environment. Seventy-eight percent of emerging human diseases spread from animals, and half of those are from wild animals. Many, such as Ebola, have existed for hundreds of years but only become a threat to humans as we encroached upon the habitat of wild animals. If we don't protect environments, human disease events will occur more often. And fungal diseases are leading the pack. Over 80% of emerging dis-

eases in the last 20 years are fungal diseases. Not viral. Not bacterial.

Matt has been studying *Ophidiomyces ophiodiicola*, otherwise known as snake fungal disease, in massasaugas (*Sistrurus catenatus*) since the disease was discovered in Illinois five years ago. The fungus attacks keratin and can infect every part of the snake. It has been found in over a dozen species of snakes, but seems to be most devastating in vipers. Mortality in massasaugas is 95% and in timber rattlesnakes (*Crotalus horridus*) 70%. The fungus occurs in otherwise healthy animals, has been found in most of the eastern states, and appears to be spreading. Treatment is somewhat effective for some captive animals but nothing practical has been found to treat wild populations. The fungus survives on nearly any proteinaceous compound. In ten years, says Dr. Allender, Illinois may have no massasaugas in the wild.

Matt then moved on to box turtles with a map showing occurrence of ranavirus. Ranavirus is globally distributed and spreading. It infects amphibians and fish as well as turtles, can be carried on boots, transmitted in pond substrate and carried in water. Some amphibians appear to be carriers for the disease. It invades every tissue in the body. The virus has a 21-day incubation period and a 90–95% fatality rate. It can survive for up to



A box turtle infected with ranavirus is lethargic, with ocular and nasal discharges. Photograph by Matt Allender.



These box turtles have been lined up for a CAT scan to help determine a Body Condition Index.

60 days in water and up to six months in soil. Anthropogenic factors tend to exacerbate outbreaks. In the U.S., the virus started in the east and is spreading west. Matt compared it to Ebola.

Eastern box turtles (*Terrapene carolina*), the most widely spread terrestrial chelonians in the eastern U.S., are highly sensitive to ranavirus. Other turtles may be as sensitive, but aquatic turtles tend to sink to the bottom when they die so are difficult to track. Until 2013, there had been documented individual cases of ranavirus infection in turtles but no documented mortality outbreaks in populations. That year Dr. Allender discovered an outbreak in a creek in east-central Illinois. In a quarter mile 19 of 21 turtles along with at least three species of amphibians were found dead or dying. Matt commented that for a person who really likes box turtles and really likes hiking, that's pretty depressing.

He and his collaborators conducted studies and discovered that captive turtles may be treated with husbandry changes and

survive but can always shed the virus and cannot be released back into the wild. Indeed, healthy captive turtles will become infected should they be placed with turtles that survived the disease. Testing on other species implies that the virus is not specific to box turtles. Red-eared sliders died in as little as six days. None of the four species tested lived beyond 18 days. Matt said that, in general, one of the benefits of working with reptiles is that everything is slow, so making a mistake in treatment can be corrected later, but ranavirus acts much quicker than most diseases of reptiles.

Dr. Allender then moved into his latest area of study. Admitting that studying and treating diseases is still important, he wants to move into defining wellness. Currently a healthy individual is defined as having nothing wrong. Even in humans, doctors search for diseases or injuries. If none are found, a person is declared healthy. Matt wants to change that, beginning with box turtles. He wants to stop reacting to what is wrong and start promoting what's right. Here's where the dogs come in. Using trained Boykin spaniels one can collect an average of 2.25 turtles per hour as compared to one turtle per hour that humans find. This has allowed Matt to collect and extract data from over 2500 box turtles. Using CAT scans, thermography, micro biome and blood analysis and presumably vast amounts of computing power, Dr. Allender is attempting to describe a healthy box turtle. Not a task that has been done for any living creature, but if it can be done for a reptile it might be applied to others, including humans. Consider that, as for all ectotherms, turtles have different health conditions for different seasons, temperatures, and environments. He has begun to establish a Body Condition Index for turtles. He's found that nearly all wild turtles, in spite of never being inoculated, harbor bacterial organisms resistant to at least one antibiotic, and many of these organisms display multiple resistance. And he's confirming what most of us already knew, that human encroachment onto wild places is detrimental and sometimes disastrous for wildlife. But the message he really wants to spread is that interfaces between wildlife and humans may be just as disastrous for us. He has set a complex and challenging goal, but I think that Matt is deeply involved with the idea of One Health and he's willing to take on the challenges in a field in which he is passionately interested and obviously expert. He's not alone. Google "One Health." You'll find organizations from the Center for Disease Control to the Association of Veterinary Medicine subscribing to the concept. It's time, no, past time to get serious about the environment, not to save the earth, but to save ourselves. "Saving the world, one box turtle at a time" doesn't seem quite as lighthearted in that context.

Unofficial Minutes of the CHS Board Meeting, October 16, 2015

President John Archer called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M. Board members Rachel Fessler, Ed Huether, Aaron LaForge, Rich Lamszus and Mike Scott were absent.

Officers' Reports

Recording secretary: Minutes from the September 18 board meeting were read and accepted with typos corrected.

Treasurer: Andy went over the September financial report.

Membership secretary: Mike Dloogatch read the list of newly expired memberships.

Publications secretary: Aaron LaForge was absent. John noted that there was a problem sending email from the CHS server. This is being looked into.

Committee Reports

Shows:

- Notebaert Nature Museum, first full weekend of each month.
- Not So Creepy Crawlers, Lake Station, Indiana, October 23.
- Creatures of the Night, Garfield Park Conservatory, October 31.
- SEWERFest, November 8.

Dick Buchholz is working to create a show-related website, to be linked through the main CHS website..

Junior herpers: The theme for the October meeting was camouflage. Kids came in costume. Still trying to get more teens involved. November meeting is to be a 3rd anniversary party. Will have games, books and prizes. December theme will be fossorial vs terrestrial animals. May need help getting animals to present. Dates for next year's meetings have been confirmed. New cards will be printed.

Library: Teresa is still looking for help, mainly at meetings to help with check-outs. Colleen wants a notebook to keep track of check-outs from Jr. Herpers.

Nominations: Slate has been completed. Absentee ballots will be prepared.

Old Business

Storage: John gave Teresa the title and insurance information needed for obtaining storage for the trailer. Suggested a 10×20 unit for other storage.

ReptileFest: Linda is talking to the caterer.

Symposium: Still looking for a hotel for next year. Still need someone to organize it. Dick suggested giving past CHS presidents a pass to the event since it is the 50th anniversary. John suggested giving grants to students to cover transportation and hotel room.

Manual of standard operating procedures: John asked that everyone write down details for each position. This includes items such as passwords to accounts such as Twitter, Facebook, library website. Will discuss at next board meeting.

Escaped animal protocol: John is waiting for details from the Notebaert regarding what to tell the public in event of an animal escape during a show.

Herp of the Month: Has been dormant for several months. Brandon will take over starting in November.

New Business

Upcoming meetings: December general meeting will be a holiday party. Need someone to organize it. December board meeting will be held at Teresa's house.

Brookfield Zoo tour: November 21. Starts 10 A.M. Will tour 3 buildings, spending 30–40 minutes in each. Can have 3 groups of 15–20 people. There will be free parking and admission to the zoo. Must be CHS member to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted for the recording secretary by Teresa Savino

Advertisements

For sale: **highest quality frozen rodents.** I have been raising rodents for over 30 years and can supply you with the highest quality mice available in the U.S. These are always exceptionally clean and healthy with no urine odor or mixed in bedding. I feed these to my own reptile collection exclusively and so make sure they are the best available. All rodents are produced from my personal breeding colony and are fed exceptional high protein, low fat rodent diets; no dog food is ever used. Additionally, all mice are flash frozen and are separate in the bag, not frozen together. I also have ultra low shipping prices to most areas of the U.S. and can beat others shipping prices considerably. I specialize in the smaller mice sizes and currently have the following four sizes available: Small pink mice (1 day old—1 gm) , \$25 /100; Large pink mice (4 to 5 days old—2 to 3 gm), \$27.50 /100; Small fuzzy mice (7 to 8 days old—5 to 6 gm) , \$30/100; Large fuzzy mice / hoppers (10 to 12 days old—8 to 10 gm), \$35/100 Contact Kelly Haller at 785-234-3358 or by e-mail at kelhal56@hotmail.com

For sale: Standard 24" Neodesha reptile cages, 3 × 6" vent on top, tempered glass front. Like new condition, no burns or stains, original glass. These cages do not have the dam (horizontal molding that crosses the entire front width of the cage, used to hold back bedding material)—easier to clean without the dam. About 20 currently available, \$45 each. Linda Malawy, (630) 717-9955, linda_malawy@hotmail.com.

For sale: High quality, all locally captive-hatched tortoises, all bred and hatched here in the upper Midwest. Baby leopards, Sri Lankan stars, and pancakes usually available, and are all well-started and feeding great! Leopards are \$125 ea., Sri Lankans (2012 hatched) \$475 ea. And Pancakes are \$195 ea. Leopards for out of state sale/shipping require a veterinary health certificate (inquire for cost). E-mail at KKranz1@wi.rr.com or call Jim or Kirsten at 262 654 6303.

Herp tours: **Costa Rica herping adventures.** Join a small group of fellow herpers for 7 herp-filled days. We find all types of herps, mammals, birds and insects, but our target is snakes. We average 52 per trip, and this is our 10th year doing it. If you would like to enjoy finding herps in the wild and sleep in a bed at night with air-conditioning, hot water and only unpack your suitcase once, instead of daily, then this is the place to do it. Go to our web-site <http://hiss-n-things.com> and read the highlights of our trips. Read the statistics of each trip and visit the link showing photos of the 40 different species we have found along the way. E-mail at jim.kavney@gmail.com or call Jim Kavney, 305-664-2881.

Line ads in this publication are run free for CHS members — \$2 per line for nonmembers. Any ad may be refused at the discretion of the Editor. Submit ads to mdloogatch@chicagoherp.org.

From the company that developed the **first UVB lamp** for reptiles 20 years ago...

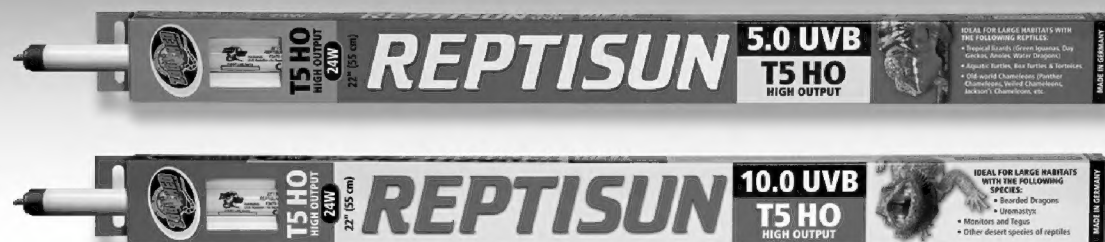
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UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Chicago Herpetological Society will be held at 7:30 P.M., Wednesday, November 25, at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Cannon Drive and Fullerton Parkway, in Chicago. This meeting will include the annual election of officers and members-at-large of the CHS board of directors. Also at this meeting **Gavin Brink**, a graduate student at Northern Illinois University, will speak about *poisonous* snakes (probably not what you think — don't miss it).

The December 30 meeting will be a holiday party. The CHS will provide soft drinks and snacks. If you would like to bring something edible to share with the group, you are invited to do so. If you would like to bring an animal to show off to the group, you are encouraged to do that as well. This will be a chance to socialize all evening and get to know your fellow members a little better.

The regular monthly meetings of the Chicago Herpetological Society take place at Chicago's newest museum—the **Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum**. This beautiful building is at Fullerton Parkway and Cannon Drive, directly across Fullerton from the Lincoln Park Zoo. Meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month, from 7:30 P.M. through 9:30 P.M. Parking is free on Cannon Drive. A plethora of CTA buses stop nearby.

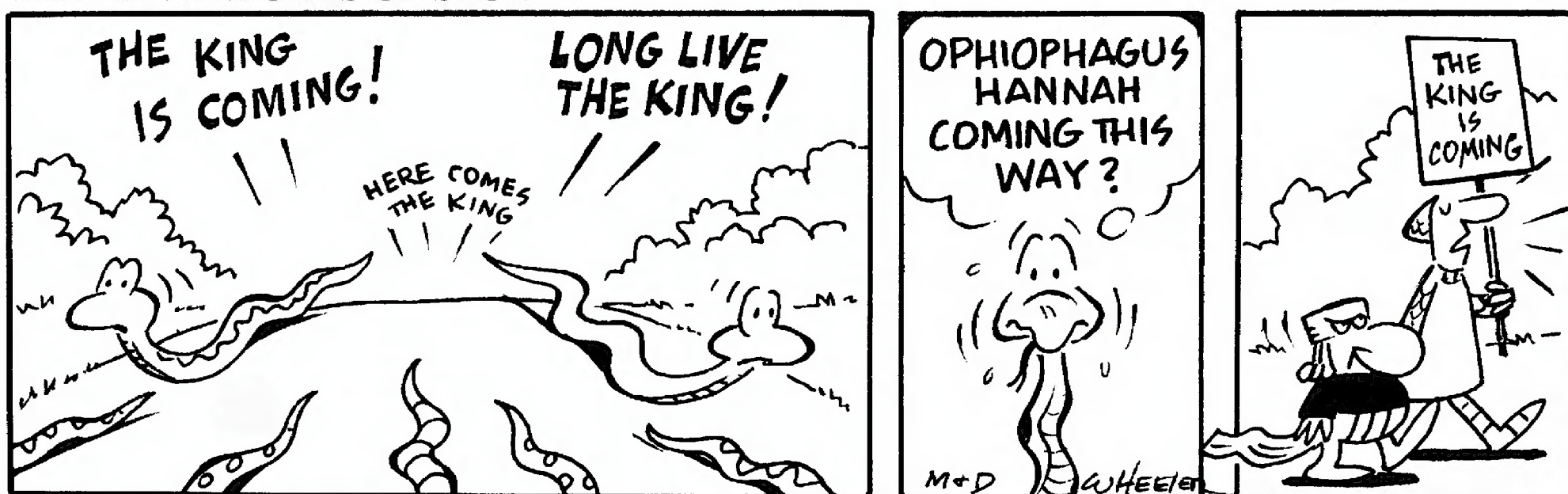
Board of Directors Meeting

Are you interested in how the decisions are made that determine how the Chicago Herpetological Society runs? And would you like to have input into those decisions? If so, mark your calendar for the next board meeting, to be held at 7:30 P.M., Friday, November 13, 2015, at the Schaumburg Township District Library, 130 S. Roselle Road, Schaumburg.

The Chicago Turtle Club

The monthly meetings of the Chicago Turtle Club are informal; questions, children and animals are welcome. Meetings normally take place at the North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski, in Chicago. Parking is free. For more info visit the group's Facebook page.

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